

# Mowing Height

Turfgrasses vary considerably in their tolerance to height of cut. Height of cut should be adjusted to suit physiological and morphological characteristics of various grasses. Functions of grass may determine cutting height, i.e. sports turf, greens, fairways, etc.

**Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf surface in one mowing!**

- By allowing grass to grow tall the lower blades are shaded and when the tall growth is removed, the exposed lower blades are scalded by the sun.
- The shorter turf is cut, the more often it must be mowed.
- Removing too much leaf surface also reduces available nutrients during time of stress.
- Grasses that have excessive horizontal growth or stoloniferous growth, tend to require a lower cutting height.
- Height of mowing is measured on a solid surface (floor, sidewalk) to edge of the bed knife on a reel type mower, or to the cutting edge on other types of mowers.

**Recommended Mowing Heights and Frequencies for Lawns and Similar Areas.**

**Fine ornamental lawns:** 12mm, 1-2 per week, mid spring to late summer (maximum growth period) and 20mm autumn to early spring (growth slowed or stopped).

**Utility lawns:** 25mm, 1 per week, mid spring to late summer (maximum growth period) and 25mm autumn to early spring (growth slowed or stopped).

**Parks/Landscape areas:** 25mm, 1 per week, mid spring to late summer (maximum growth period) and 25mm autumn to early spring (growth slowed or stopped).