

WHAT IS GRASSCYCLING?

Grasscycling means shredding grass clippings on your lawn instead of bagging them. Extensive research at Michigan State University and other sites demonstrates that lawns grow better when grass clippings and leaves are mulched all across the lawn. Grass clippings are 85-90% water, and are a significant source of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium for your lawn. Are you throwing away free fertilizer and then buying more?

Proper grasscycling technique is to cut off a maximum of one inch of the grass blades per mowing. Lawns should never be cut shorter than two inches. Grasscycling can be done with any type mower, but the newer mulching blades have the advantage of cutting the grass clippings more finely. As with any pruning, the plants are less stressed when cut with a sharp blade. "Cut it high and dry and let it lie," say the experts.

The City pays over \$20,000 annually for yard waste processing by outside contractors. Save tax dollars, save work bagging, and improve your lawn by grasscycling and mulching leaves. Visit www.turf.msu.edu for details. Why not try it?



Waste Reduction is a Shared Responsibility

The City of Ypsilanti offers a very aggressive curbside recycling program to help reduce your waste. However, waste reduction is a shared responsibility. If each resident does their part, we can make a big difference in reducing our solid waste and disposal costs. This is not only good for the City, but good for the environment.

Here are some tips to help you keep your waste under 3 cans/bags per week.

- Recycle all items possible. By recycling your old plastic bottles, glass bottles, cans, aluminum, and paper products you may significantly reduce your solid waste. If you need a curbside recycle bin, call 483-1421 or visit one of the recycling drop-off centers.
- Avoid disposal items whenever possible. Although they are convenient at times, by eliminating disposals in everyday use, you reduce your solid waste.
- Reuse items whenever possible. Plastic grocery bags, plastic baggies and even butter tubs can be used over and over again before discarding.

**Washtenaw County Offers Help
Visit recycle.ewashtenaw.org for More
Information**

- Fall is a great time to start a compost pile. Compost piles are not just for grass and leaves. Raw vegetables, fruit, coffee grounds, tea bags and egg shells may also be composted. For more information on composting, visit above website.

**If you have any questions call Ypsilanti
Department of Public Works at 483-1421**