

Weekly Column for Week of 3-29-10
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Almost time for Mowing

We all have noticed it. The snow has melted away to reveal our lawns that have been tucked away for the past few months. Most likely, the thought has at least crossed your mind that it will be time to start mowing soon. There are some things you can do to keep your yard healthier just by considering the way you mow your grass.

It is important not to mow too low. You should mow at the highest setting for the type of grass you have in your yard. For example, tall fescue grass should be mowed at a height of 3 to 4 inches. Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass can be mowed as high as 3.5 inches. Taller grass blades benefit your lawn in many ways. It helps to protect the lawn from excessive heat and the deeper roots help it get more nutrients to crowd out the weeds. Furthermore, when grass is cut too short, it can become more vulnerable to disease.

Once you cut your grass, something else to consider is leaving the grass clippings on your lawn. This will help to provide natural fertilizer for your yard as it breaks down. It is best to mow when the grass is dry and to break up any clumps as best you can to make sure that it is spread throughout the yard. This is a great way to reduce or eventually eliminate your need to use other fertilizers on your lawn.

The lawn mowing break is coming to an end. Some love it, and others tolerate it. But one thing is for certain – good practices can go a long way in keeping your lawn healthy. For more information on properly mowing your lawn, you can visit the web at <http://www.purdue.edu/envirosoft/lawn/src/equip/cutting1.htm>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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