

Want to save your back, and maybe save some cash?? Try “grasscycling”!

When mowing your lawn, cut no more than 1/3 of its length, and don't rake—just leave the clippings to nourish your lawn. Grass contains nitrogen and other nutrients, but it's 90% water, so the clippings will disappear quick!

- Does this cause “thatch”? No, thatch results from aggressive lawn growth due to **over-watering and over-fertilizing**, not from grass clippings!
- Have a lawn-cutting service? Ask for a better rate--tell them “don't collect the clippings”!
- Have a lawn treatment company or do-it-yourself? Leave the clippings and you can skip one fertilizer application during the season! (And ask for a reduced rate.)

Are you ready for composting?

Grasscycling and mulching those autumn leaves are simple ways to compost. Fallen leaves contain 50-80% of the nutrients a tree extracts from the soil and the air. Mowing or shredding them reduces the bulk and returns these nutrients to the soil. Leaves and grass clippings also make excellent mulch for flowers, shrubs, and gardens.

The fall is also an excellent time to start a compost pile, because leaves need to be abundant enough to keep your compost from generating odors (they are high in carbon). Fruit and vegetable peelings can also be added. Refer to the Shelby Township Solid Waste Ordinance, [Section 62-7 \(Rev. Code 1995, § 9.108\)](#), for the proper location and size of compost piles. Self-contained “composters” are also available from home improvement stores or on-line sources. Additional information is available from your local volunteer Master Composters—contact the Macomb-MSU Extension, 586-469-5180, or the Shelby Township Clerk's Office, 586-731-5102. Additional information can be found at the Shelby Township Library.