



Steve VanNoord
 Matthew VanNoord
 616-698-8930
 Fax: 616-554-3646

8824 Eastern Ave, Byron Center MI 49315 www.WeedandFeedLawnCare.com

Lawn Mowing Height

Mowing is one of the most important cultural practices performed in lawn maintenance. Regardless of whether the lawn is fertilized, irrigated, in sun or shade, proper mowing practices are essential if a high quality lawn is to develop. Properly mowed lawns will have fewer weed populations, better moisture stress tolerance and generally better quality than lawns not properly mowed.

Research has shown the proper mowing height for cool season grass is between 3 and 3.5 inches. Mowing below 3 inches drastically reduces the quality of turf.

Advantages of higher mowing height:

Better Lawn Color

We see a much thicker, greener, healthier turf with lawns that are mowed at heights of 3 inches or above.

Here is a picture of 2 lawns that are maintained in a similar way. The major difference in these lawns is the mowing height. The lawn on the right is mowed below 3 inches:



Less Weeds & Crabgrass

Mowing height can play an important role in prevention of lawn weed establishment. Research has shown that higher mowing heights result in fewer weeds per unit area. This is due to longer grass providing more shading and competition to the weed seedlings during the initial establishment phases.

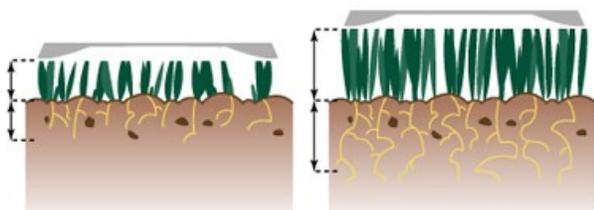
Less Mowing Maintenance

A general rule of thumb is not to remove more than one-third of the grass blade when mowing your lawn. The chart on the right provides different mowing heights and estimated mowing frequency.

| Mowing Height (inches) | Height of Grass at mowing (inches) | Amount of Grass Removed (inches) | Estimated Mowing Frequency (days) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 2.5 | 3.75 | 1.25 | 6.3 |
| 3 | 4.5 | 1.5 | 7.5 |
| 3.5 | 5.25 | 1.75 | 8.8 |
| 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 |

Less Watering

Studies have shown that higher mowing heights during the summer period will keep soil temperatures cooler, preserve soil moisture and help maintain turfgrass quality. When soil moisture becomes limited, the closely mowed lawns usually exhibit stress first and the loss of turfgrass plants is more likely.



Turfgrass mowed at the recommended height will have deeper, stronger root systems.

Stronger Root System

A direct relationship exists between the height of the turfgrass and the depth and total mass of the root system. Research with Kentucky bluegrass has shown that root growth was more than twice as great when the grass was mowed 1 inch higher. In general, a lawn mowed too short will have a shallow root system with little total root mass. The impact of shallow, weak root systems is most apparent during summer stress periods.