Grass Recycling - It's Okay to "Let It Lay"

A ½ acre lawn in Pennsylvania produces more than three tons (260 bags) of grass clippings a year. It takes a lot of money, effort and time to bag those clippings. And it is not necessary. Your lawn can be green and healthy by leaving your grass clippings where they fall. The clippings decompose and act as a natural fertilizer. After every mowing, you return nutrients to the soil and therefore, reduce the need to buy fertilizer.

Techniques and Tips:

- Any mower can recycle clippings. Just remove the grass catcher. Determine if you need a special safety plug or adapter kit by asking your lawn mower dealer. Never cut off more than one-third of the grass blade in one mowing and keep grass mowed to two inches in early spring and then gradually raise the height to three to four inches by summer, then gradually reduce back to two inches by late fall. Keep your mower blade sharp.

- Mow when the grass is dry.

Uses for Clippings:

- **Compost**. Fresh clippings are an excellent source of nitrogen.

- **Mulch**. Pile about 1" of dried clippings on the soil to reduce weeds and moderate soil temperature.

- **Soil Additive**. Mixing fresh grass clippings into the garden improves soil xture, promotes moisture retention and adds nutrients and organic matter.

Watering Practices: In the state of Pennsylvania, it is not necessary to water grass. Healthy lawns go brown during a drought but will quickly turn green when rainfall resumes. When in doubt, remember....

- The key word is "LESS" - -

  Less Fertilizer
  Less Water
  Less Work
  Less Work