

# Table of Contents

	Page	
1.0	The research investigation	3
1.1	Research objectives	4
1.2	Research methodology	5
1.3	Limitations of the research	6
2.0	Executive summary	7
	Attitudes toward lawn care	8
	Sources of information regarding lawn care	9
	Awareness of grasscycling	10
	Benefits of grasscycling	11
	Barriers to grasscycling	12
	Motivations to grasscycle	13

# Awareness of Grasscycling

- The majority of study participants bag their clippings. Most feel the clippings are going to the landfill or being composted by the City.
- Some occasionally mulch, either to save time or to add moisture to the lawn.
- Only one of the 17 study participants had heard of the term “grasscycling”.
- Study participants speculated on a variety of meaning for “grasscycling”, from the cycle of growth to making new products from grass clippings, however, all suggest they would be interested in finding out more about grasscycling.
- When given the definition “leaving grass clippings on your lawn after mowing”, almost all state that they would try this if it were recommended by a credible source (such as a gardening expert in a newspaper column or radio show), if the City requested it, and if they had more information regarding how to do it.
- Several associated the definition with mulching; however, others felt mulching might require a specific type of lawnmower.

# Benefits of Grasscycling

- The key benefits of grasscycling were felt to include:
  - Less effort – saving time due to no need to rake
  - More economical – no need to purchase bags
  - More environmentally friendly – less waste going to landfill
  - Healthier lawn – natural moisture and nutrients to the lawn

*“... we recycle other things, but not our lawn clippings, and we should.”*

- The four benefits stated on the self-completion questionnaire (creates a healthier lawn, reduces the need for watering, reduces costs, and saves time) were almost equally appealing to study participants. However, each benefit was met with some skepticism.

# Barriers to Grasscycling

- Although most felt they would try grasscycling, several stated they would not continue if they experienced problems with their lawn or if this type of lawn maintenance did not provide the results they enjoy.
- Specific concerns regarding grasscycling included:
  - Thatch
  - Grass turning yellow
  - Would have to mow twice or mulch
  - Would have to get a new mower
  - Would have to mow more frequently
  - Might have to rake to spread clippings
  - Bald patches because of build-up
  - Might retain water and increase chances of rot, disease and bugs
  - Wind might blow clippings onto neighbours lawns – messy, spread problems
  - Some have tried this method using mulching before and feel they did not receive the results they wanted

*“ I have a hard time believing that if you leave the grass on your lawn to rot that it’s not going to increase the amount of bugs ... then you have to spend your money on stuff to kill the bugs ...”*