

# June

## Grasscycling: Not another Dad Joke

This June, Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is encouraging homeowners to take a step out of their lawn care regiments and stop bagging their grass clippings. When we throw away the clippings from our yards, we are also ridding our lawns of nutrients that we then have to reapply through fertilizer applications. This cycle is one many of us have fallen into, and ACPWQ thinks 2019 is the year to break the pattern! Each year the average homeowner will spend around [70 hours](#) maintaining their lawns to achieve their ideal space. One step that can reduce both the time and money spent maintaining the yard is through something known as grasscycling.

Grasscycling is the simple practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn after one is done the mowing. Instead of raking, bagging, and throwing away clippings, just let them lay wherever they fall in your lawn. By skipping this extra step, you can save yourself money by not having to purchase as much fertilizer, because grass clippings can cover up to [25% of nutrient](#) needs for



your lawn. In addition, it saves us time! [Grasscycling reduces mowing time by up to 40%](#), allowing us to simply mow the grass and move on with our day.

The ideal conditions for grasscycling are to mow when the grass is dry to the touch and with a sharp blade. This helps to ensure that the grass isn't being torn during the mowing process. Additionally, try to cut off no more than [1/3 the length of the grass](#). The smaller pieces will biodegrade faster and help keep your lawn looking healthy. If poor weather or life events make it difficult to cut the grass at the ideal length, make sure to mow over the clippings to help disperse them and chop them into finer pieces.

Grasscycling is a great way to improve our local water quality by allowing fewer fertilizers to be used and therefore less opportunity for excess nitrogen and phosphorus to find their way to our waterways. Additionally, this process helps promote healthy soil that can absorb rainwater and allows for us to water our lawns less frequently.

So this June, join in and start grasscycling to help save you money and time while also improving the water quality in your area!