

“Don’t Trash Grass!” Video Transcript

Time	Video	Audio
0:00	Introduction: CT DEP Recycling Program Presents “Don’t Trash Grass”	Music
0:34	Man mowing the lawn stops to yell to his neighbor who is leaving the house. They engage in a conversation on the lawn.	<p>Hey Ken! What are you doing, wimping out on lawn duty this weekend?</p> <p>No, take a good look around! My lawn is done, and it looks great!</p> <p>Yeah, it sure does! What did you do, pay a professional to have it done for you?</p> <p>No, I did it myself this morning. It took me a lot less time because I didn’t have to bag any of the grass clippings!</p> <p>Not bagging, are you crazy? Won’t that suffocate your lawn and I don’t know, make it all brown or something?</p> <p>No, a lot of people think that but actually not bagging any of the clippings returns nutrients back to the soil.</p> <p>Does that mean I don’t have fertilize anymore?</p> <p>Well, not as much anyway! And, by not fertilizing as much, you cut down on water pollution.</p> <p>Yeah, and it would be great not to have to bag all those grass clippings every week.</p> <p>You know, and not bagging those clippings saves valuable landfill space and it gives me <i>a lot</i> more free time.</p> <p>Hey, I know what you mean. Free time is pretty important to me.</p> <p>I know how valuable free time is to you. And, on that note, I’m off to the beach. So, enjoy your afternoon.”</p>

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1:37	People bagging grass and images of it being collected	Many people still feel that bagging grass clippings is a necessary part of lawn maintenance. A few bags of grass clippings placed at the curb each week for collection seem fairly harmless, but when all the bags from everyone's homes are added together, the total amount can be staggering. This not only strains our waste collection system...
1:58	Image of a landfill	...but more importantly, bagged grass clippings use up valuable landfill space and reduce the efficiency of resource recovery plants.
2:05	Images of people mowing lawns	You can have a healthy green lawn by leaving grass clippings where they fall. Golf course fairways and public parks are known for their beautiful landscapes, yet the clippings from these areas are rarely collected. What's their secret? Recycling! The concept is simple: grass clippings left on the lawn will decompose and act as a natural organic fertilizer. This allows you to reduce the amount of additional commercial fertilizer you need to apply. Your lawn will still be healthy and green because each time you mow, you will be returning nutrients to the soil. If you follow the recommendations presented during the next few minutes, not only will you have a healthy lawn, but you'll never have to bag grass clippings again! And you'll be doing your part for the environment!
2:55	Image of fertilizer, sprinkler, and then landfill	The key word is "less." Less fertilizer, less water, less work, and best of all, less solid waste. It's easy!
3:05	Image of man mowing his lawn	Recycling clippings back into the lawn requires less effort than disposing of them as waste. No one has to handle the grass clippings - not you, not your lawn care professional and not the waste management crew. What's more, you'll spend less money on fertilizer and garbage bags. Surveys have shown that homeowners who left clippings on their lawns spent nearly 40% less time on each mowing because they didn't have to stop to empty grass catchers. These homeowners also rated their lawns as being much more attractive than before."
3:41	Woman digging through garbage	Grass clippings are too valuable to throw away with the trash. They contain about 4 percent

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	and finding grass clippings	nitrogen, 1/2 percent phosphorous, and 2 percent potassium by dry weight plus other elements essential for plant growth. These are the same nutrients found in commercial fertilizers.
3:58	Image of UCONN plant and soil research center	Research done by the University of Connecticut indicates that leaving clippings on the lawn decreases the incidence of some plant diseases and increases earthworm activity, providing better water and air movement in the soil.
4:12	Grass clippings being distributed on lawn	Don't worry about clippings contributing to thatch problems.
4:14	Diagram of thatch under grass	Thatch is the accumulation of dead roots and stems, and is most often caused by over-fertilizing and over watering.
4:22	Man mowing lawn	Turf experts nationwide agree that lawn clippings do not produce thatch because they are 80% water and decompose quickly. The "Don't Trash Grass" lawn care guidelines provide recommendations for mowing, fertilizing and watering.
4:40	Animation of grass growing	The rule of thumb for mowing is never remove more than one third of the leaf in any single mowing. Done consistently, this will allow the small clippings to filter down to the soil where they will decompose quickly. Most New England lawns thrive when mowed to 2 to 3 inches tall, especially in the summer. Kept at this height, the grass will develop a deep root system and become more drought resistant. It will also shade the soil, which keeps the roots cool and helps reduce weeds.
5:10	Person mowing lawn and image of lawnmower blade	Mow when the grass is dry and keep your mower blade sharp. If excessive growth occurs between mowings, simply mow over the clippings a second time to further shred and scatter them.
5:22	Person raising and lowering the a lawnmower	Or, to compensate for the extra growth, raise the mower height to remove only the top third of the grass blade. One or two days later, set the mower to its regular height and mow again to get back on track.
5:36	Mulching grass, adding grass clippings to compost pile	Don't leave clumps of grass on the lawn. If you still have excess grass clippings, you can add them to your home compost pile, use them as mulch, or till them into your garden soil.

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5:49	Image of different types of mowers and animation of lawnmower cutting grass	Your present mower can be used to recycle grass clippings, but if you're thinking about buying a new mower, be sure to look for a "mulching" or "recycler" mower. It cuts the clippings into much smaller pieces, which decompose and recycle faster. Most lawnmower manufacturers now have adaptor kits, which allow your present lawnmower to operate as a mulching mower. You can also have a mulching blade installed. Check with lawnmower dealers to see what they recommend for your particular mower.
6:20	Woman using reel mower	If you have a small lawn, you may want to consider buying a reel mower. These do a fine job of cutting grass without the noise and exhaust of a power mower.
6:31	Buying and applying fertilizer to a lawn	Proper fertilizer application is important. And remember, when it comes to fertilizer, more is not better. Research shows that most grasses require only modest levels of nitrogen for good color and controlled growth. Too much fertilizer will increase the need for mowing resulting in more clippings. For slower, more uniform growth, choose fertilizers containing slow-release nitrogen. The bag should read "water insoluble nitrogen" or "slow release nitrogen". Both are acceptable and will increase the amount of time the grass can use the nutrient. Because the grass clippings are returning nutrients to the soil, you can reduce the manufacturer's recommended application rate and still maintain a healthy green lawn.
7:18	Image of river	Using less fertilizer will also reduce the amount of polluting substances carried into our streams and ponds. New England has a high precipitation rate, so turf grasses here do not have to be watered to stay healthy.
7:33	Images of dry lawns and healthy lawns	Though they may turn brown and dormant in periods of drought, turf grasses recover rapidly when soil moisture is replaced.
7:39	Images of sprinklers and watering lawns	Remember, the more you water your lawn, the faster it's going to grow and the more you will have to mow it. If you choose to water your lawn during the driest period of summer, an inch of water every five to seven days is adequate. Measure this by placing an empty,

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		shallow, flat-bottom container, such as a tuna fish can, near the sprinkler to gauge when an inch of water has been applied. If water begins to run off the lawn before an inch is applied, turn off the water and let it soak in for an hour or so, and then continue watering.
8:14	Animation of grass growing with water	This method will wet the soil about six inches deep, helping your grass to maintain a deep root system and allowing you to water less frequently.
8:22	Images of sprinklers watering lawns	The best time to water is in the morning because less water is lost through evaporation and transpiration. Avoid watering during midday, and try not to water in the evening since lawns that remain damp during the night are more prone to disease.
8:40	Image of planet Earth and bags of grass clippings	Protecting our planet is everyone's responsibility, and if you "Don't Trash Grass" you can make a difference. Your participation will: reduce the amount of waste in our landfills and resource recovery facilities, recycle plant nutrients for a healthier lawn, protect resources by reducing the use of fertilizer, provide you with extra free time, and save you money!
9:06	<p data-bbox="354 1077 553 1283">Text: CT DEP Recycling Program 79 Elm St. Hartford, CT 06106</p> <p data-bbox="354 1325 618 1780">"Don't Trash Grass" Presented by: The Department of Environmental Protection, Waste Management Bureau, Recycling Program Timothy R.E. Keeney, Commissioner</p> <p data-bbox="354 1822 581 1854">Copyright 1992</p>	For more information on the "Don't Trash Grass" lawn care guidelines, please write to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection at the address on your screen.

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