

Recycling Your Grass

If there is one thing for certain this year, is that we have seen much of rain. In 2013, Dixie, GA has recorded 82 days or rain. By this time last year, we saw 73 rainy days...dM4w

Bermudagrass	1-1½ inches
Centipedegrass	1-2 inches
St. Augustinegrass	2-3 inches
Zoysiagrass	1-2 inches

Also, a sound fertilizer program is necessary to the effectiveness of grasscycling. Perform a soil test on your lawn each fall/winter to determine lime requirements and fertilizer needs for your lawn. In the absence of a soil analysis, a widely used fertilizer for turfgrasses is 16-4-8. Six pounds of 16-4-8 per 1,000 square feet of lawn area will provide the recommended rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per application. No warm season turfgrass in this area needs to be fertilized before the month of May and after August. Fertilizing at the wrong time of the year causes stress to the turfgrass.

Grasscycling, when done properly, is good for the environment and health of the grass. Soil microorganisms can effectively break down clippings left behind and add valuable nutrients to the soil. However, the turfgrass system (plant, soil, microorganisms, etc.) can become overwhelmed when too many clippings are allowed to accumulate. To avoid potential problems, do not over-fertilize or over-water, mow at recommended heights, and mow often enough not to have a buildup of clippings on the turfgrass surface.

Information from this article was taken from UGA Publication, "Grasscycling: Let the Clippings Fall Where They May." For additional questions, contact Thomas County Extension office at 225-4130.