

# Todd's Tips

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## 4 Mowing Tips

### #1 - Cut Grass High

It might seem like a smart plan to mow grass as short as possible so you don't have to mow as often. Yet, the reality is that mowing low can reduce your lawn's ability to manufacture food and therefore reduce the vigor of your turfgrass.

The recommended lawn heights for the types of michigan turfgrass is between 3 and 5.5 inches.

Cutting grass higher reduces stress and helps green the lawn. Taller grass shades the soil, which keeps vulnerable grassroots cooler, preserves soil moisture, and shades out weeds.

### #2 - Follow the one third rule for mowing

Time your lawn mowing with the goal of cutting off only the top one-third of the grass.

In practice, cutting the lawn following the one-third rule might look like this:

- Wait until grass blades reach about 5 inches tall.
- Mow off  $\frac{1}{3}$  (a little over 1.5 inches)
- Your results will put the grass about 3.33 inches. A height within the recommended range for a healthier lawn.

### #3 - Change Your Mowing Pattern Each Time

Mowing in the same direction every time will "train" the grass to lean to one side and cause strips of dead or damaged lawn. Tight turns can also pull up grassroots.

Minimizing backtracking and turns, as well as, varying the mowing patterns will:

- Prevent ruts
- Help grass blades grow upright
- Keep the lawn greener

### #4 - Leave Grass Clippings for a Healthy Lawn

Leave healthy grass clippings on your lawn. Despite what you may have heard, lawn clippings do not cause thatch!

This practice is environmentally friendly and will reduce the amount of work you have to do. Not only do you not have to bag or rake but leaving the lawn clippings will help to return nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

Rake lawn only when grass clippings are so deep they stick together and clump on the surface. You will also want to remove any clippings from a lawn that is diseased.