

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

Burlington Township has Discontinued Grass Clipping Collection

During these challenging economic times the Township of Burlington is forced to make difficult decisions in order to provide its residents essential services without additional financial burden. In light of this, Burlington Township will no longer provide curbside grass clipping collection services.

Why is this being done?

Excessive labor and disposal costs. During the grass cutting season the Township deploys two trash trucks with a crew of three each for three days per week in order to collect grass clippings. The grass clippings are then transported to a special recycling facility in South Jersey that is capable of receiving a large amount of grass waste. The costs incurred are labor, disposal fees, and trash truck maintenance/replacement.

Why can't I place grass clippings in the household trash?

The Township pays fees to Burlington County based on the weight of material disposed of at the County landfill. The current fee is \$72.45 per ton. The additional weight of grass would increase the cost by an estimated \$82,000 per year. Also, our solid waste contractor has indicated that the additional labor and vehicles necessary to accommodate the increased load would cost an additional \$90,000 per year. The cost of adding grass to regular trash would be approximately \$172,000 per year.

What if I insist on bagging grass?

The Township will continue to accept grass clippings at the Compost/Recycling Center on Lake Avenue. Residents delivering grass to the facility will be required to show proof of residency. Grass will not be accepted from landscape contractors since there will be no way to verify the source of the clippings.

What will happen to the Township employees who currently collect grass clippings?

The employees will be reassigned to cut grass of Township owned property eliminating the need for an outside contractor which would have cost approximately \$100,000 per year. The employees will also be utilized for making much needed road repairs throughout the Township.

How do I eliminate grass clippings?

Proper lawn care requires regular mowing and produces large quantities of heavy grass clippings. Disposal is inconvenient and expensive and takes up space in landfills. An alternative is to leave clippings on the lawn, which saves labor and promotes a healthy lawn.

Quick Facts...

- One thousand square feet of bluegrass lawn generates about 200 pounds of clippings annually; 75 percent or 150 pounds of this is water.
- Leave clippings on the lawn for healthier grass.
- Clippings break down quickly and encourage beneficial microorganisms and earthworms.
- Nutrients in the clippings are recycled into the lawn, promoting steady grass growth.
- Clippings left on the lawn means no bagging and hauling, saving both human and fuel energy.
- The idea that clippings left on lawns will cause thatch has been disproven.
- Mulching mowers and blades are readily available.¹

¹ Colorado State University Fact Sheet No. 7.007 "Eliminate Grass Clipping Collection", C.R. Wilson and T. Koski

Additional Grasscycling Information:

[Rutgers Cooperative Extension – Minimizing Waste Disposal: Grass Clippings](#)

[Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences – Recycling Turfgrass Clippings](#)

[Burlington County Division of Waste Management](#)

[Colorado State University – Eliminate Grass Clipping Collection](#)

[Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)