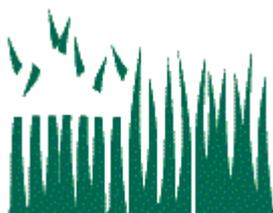


MOWING HEIGHT



Recommended Mowing height:	Optimum	Summer	Winter
Warm Season grasses:			
Couch and hybrids (<i>Cynodon dactylis</i>)		15	30
Santa Ana, Casablanca (<i>Cynodon transvaalensis</i>)	10-20mm	10-20	25
Blue couch (<i>Digitaria didactyla</i>)		15-20	20
Kikuyu (<i>Pennisetum clandestinium</i>)		45 weekly	30
Salt water paspalum (<i>Paspalum distichium</i>)		15-20	20
Buffalo (<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>)	30-40mm	40	30
Durban, Shady Lady (<i>Dactyloctenium australe</i>)		30-40mm	
Cool season grasses:			
Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>)	30-50mm	40-50	30
Tall Fescue (<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>)	30-60mm	40-60	30
Chewings fescue (<i>Festuca comuttata</i>)		30-40	25
Perennial ryegrass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>)		30-40	30
Bent grass (<i>Agrostis palustris, A. tenuis</i>)		50-60	40
Strawberry clover (<i>Trifolium fragiferum</i>)		25	
Lawn blends:			
Couch, Kentucky bluegrass, Rye blends	20-50mm	35-50	20-30
Couch, Kentucky bluegrass, Rye, Strawberry clover blends	20-50mm	20-30	25
Rye, Couch blend	10-20mm	10-20	20
Rye, Couch, Bluegrass blends	20-40mm	30-40	25
Rye, creeping Fescue, Kentucky bluegrass blends	25-50mm	40-50	25

Never remove more than one third of the green leaf area at any one mowing.



Follow the rule that the mowing height should be as high as use of the lawn permits. It can range from a couple of millimetres for a bowling green, to 80 mm or more for roadside nature strips. Very low mowing causes the turf to thin out and become invaded by weeds. It prevents the turf plant from growing new shoots (tillering) and forming a healthy, dense growth. Every aspect of turf growth is affected by mowing height, and different kinds of grass should be cut at different heights.

A close-mown putting green at 2mm needs to be mown when the grass is 2.7 mm high, necessitating daily mowing during the active growing season.

The grass on a golf fairway is usually maintained at around 15 to 20 mm. Observing the “one third” rule with the mower height set at 15 mm means that fairways are mown when the grass is 22 mm high. A well-watered couch lawn will produce this 7mm of new growth in 2-3 days.

Mowing increases the rate of water loss. Don’t mow on very hot days, otherwise irrigate immediately after mowing.

When lowering the height of cut, do it in small steps. A sudden change does not give the plant roots time to adjust. Cutting height should be greater in shaded areas.