

James's Tips: MOWING

lawn³[®]
advanced lawn care

I often get asked about Mowing so I thought I would share with you best practice for mowing most domestic lawns

- As a general rule it is sensible to cut the lawn from March through October, with a light trim if required during a mild spell in the winter months.
- Do not cut the lawn if frost is expected within twenty four hours and for three days pre and post herbicide treatment, and do not cut in the same direction every time you mow. Alter your start position.
- Make sure the mower blade is sharp so that the grass is cut cleanly (It is really important). Always set at the correct height - weeds and moss will always colonise bare patches if you scalp the lawn. Keep the under-deck clean - it helps the flow of cut grass into the collection bag.
- Do not drop clippings - they build into thatch - a haven for disease and pests.
- Never cut your lawn to less than 1 inch high. If there is not enough leaf to support the sward, then the grass will be weakened. Short grass encourages moss colonisation, daisies, yarrow and annual meadow grass.
- Mow the grass regularly - weekly if possible. This promotes the sideways spread of grass roots and increases sward density.
- If the grass is long always follow the '1/3 off rule' - never remove more than a third of the grass height in one cut. This reduces stress on the lawn and allows it to recover more quickly and stay healthier. Mow it progressively in lower in stages 3 to 4 days apart.
- Try to avoid cutting the grass when it is wet as the mower will tend to tear rather than cut, causing stress and increasing risk of disease.
- In summer, when grass growth slows down or through sustained dry periods, increase the cutting height.