

Grass clippings nourish the soil

GOODGARDEN TIP: If your grass getting a sunburn and turning brown during the hot weather, hold the fertilizer. If you must water, do it in the early morning or late evening, not in the heat of the day.

I hope your lawn mowers are sharp and that you have been regularly cutting the grass when it reaches three inches, removing one inch and then leaving the clippings to fall down through the turf and nourish

the soil for a healthier lawn.

This will reduce the need for fertilizer. In fact, the Scotts Company recommends fertilizer be applied periodically throughout the growing season, for grasses in this area no more than four pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet should be used.

Since these grass clippings contain a lot of water, they decompose quickly; therefore they don't cause thatch. We're been mowing like this and I can see a difference. It's best

to mow the lawn (removing no more than 1/3 of the grass at one time), when the weather is dry. Wet grass can clump and, besides looking unsightly, the clippings don't fall down around the plants as well. Grass that is mowed very short is more apt to be stressed, especially in the very hot weather and stressed plants are more susceptible to disease. Also, a taller grass can shade the area and be a deterrent to those pesky weeds.

Matching mowers, being manufactured by several companies, will do a good job, according to their advertisements. Perhaps if you are looking for a new mower, this type might be a consideration. Toro makes one -- there are others.

Beginning next year, our state will ban the dumping of grass clippings and leaves in landfills by commercial lawn cutters; in the following year that law will apply to homeowners. It's time we all changed our way of thinking about lawn care.

Natural lawns are beginning to sprout up in various communities. It would be wise to check the ordinances in your area before making a radical change on your property. This type of landscaping isn't just a matter of scattering a few seeds and watching a beautiful show -- the types of plants used should be carefully considered. The results may not be as quick as hoped, since the plants need time to become established, weeded and maintained.

Whatever you choose for the lawn, a neat edging gives a well-kept look. We have been using a couple of cordless trimmer products with good results. The small hand-held one is called a Clipquik and does a nice job in close places. The long-handled one (a Clipki) works great, too. The big advantage to both of these Pendleton products is that they are battery-powered and rechargeable. No long electric cord gets in the way when we use them.

For a free brochure on mulch lawns



down to earth

Marty Figley

mowers and solutions to the yard refuse problem, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Solutions: The Toro News Center, 8500 Normandale Lk. Blvd. Suite 1200, Minneapolis, Minn. 55437. For information on lawn care or Scotts lawn products, call their Consumer Hotline 1-800-543-TORF.

If you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope and \$1 to COM-PACT, Dept. CB, 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, Pa. 18098, Rodale Press

will send a small booklet titled "Posting Made Easy." NOTICE: Ortho's new "Ortho's Eidal Soap" is recalling "Ortho's Eidal Soap." The risk to humans is negligible, but since the product of herbicide was found in the product, all of the soap's ingredients. To arrange for return, call (514) 842-2334.

Marty Figley is a professional based advertiser.

clarification

Some of the information on the two art restorers from Rochester were cut from last Thursday's story on art restoration.

Mike Paradise's business is called Paradise Art Services, 651-1594.

Richard Ulrich of Rochester specializes in the repair of three dimensional art objects: wood, stone, cloth, metal, papier mache and lacquerware. He can be reached at 652-9678 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

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