



GrassCycling

Choosing a Mulching Mower

A Variety of Mulching Mowers

The majority of mowers on the market today are labeled as “mulching mowers.” This does not mean that all mulching mowers are alike.

It’s important to choose the mulching mower that works best for your situation. A high-powered, self-propelled gas mower is not necessary for a 10’ x 10’ lawn. Likewise, a rechargeable electric or reel-type mower may not be sufficient for mowing a quarter acre.

Do Your Homework Before Shopping

Measure your lawn so you know how much area you need to mow.

$$\frac{\text{Length}}{\text{Length}} \times \frac{\text{Width}}{\text{Width}} = \frac{\text{Square Feet}}{\text{Square Feet}}$$

Answer the questions below, to help determine the right mulching mower for you.

- Is your lawn flat or are there steep slopes?
- Is your lawn mostly one or two big areas?
- Does your lawn have a lot of nooks and crannies? Are there obstacles?
- Are you considering electric- or gas-powered?
- If considering a reel-type mower, is it because of novelty or practicality?

Features To Look For

Special mulching blades. Some mulching mowers have a double blade that chops the clippings into fine pieces.

Under-deck design. Mulching mower decks are designed to reflect grass clippings back to the blades and onto the ground.

Bagging mowers will have a contoured tunnel that carries grass back into the bag.

Mulch/Bag Combo. There may be times you need to bag and use clippings elsewhere in your yard. Some mowers will convert to a mulching with the flip of a handle, while others require a special bagging plug.

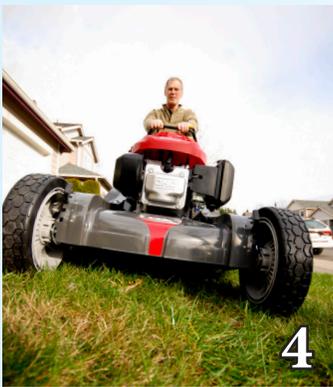
Other Considerations

- Is the blade easy to service and sharpen?
- Can the store you purchase from service your mower and sharpen your blades?
- If choosing an electric mower, do you prefer rechargeable or cord type?
- Will a rechargeable model carry enough charge for your lawn area?
- Do you need a self-propelled model or do you prefer to push?

olympiawa.gov/grasscycling
360.753.8509



GrassCycling: an easy way to make a difference.



- 1. GrassCycling.** A natural way to recycle grass and return water and nutrients to your soil.
- 2. Mulch/Bag Combo.** Some mowers will convert to a mulching with the flip of a handle, while others require a special bagging plug.
- 3. Effortless.** Do you need a self-propelled model or do you prefer to push?
- 4. Your Lawn Layout.** Is your lawn flat or are there steep slopes and dips?
- 5. Underdeck.** Mulching mower decks are designed to reflect grass clippings back to the blades and onto the ground. Check the undercarriage.
- 6. Watch Out for Lawn Obstacles.** Find a mower that fits your mowing needs - will it maneuver easily in your yard?
- 7. Cut Height.** Look for adjustments and levers; how high or low will the mower cut grass.
- 8. Special Mulching Blades.** Some mulching mowers have a double blade that chops the clippings into fine pieces.
- 9. Sharpen Blades Often.** When purchasing, consider how easy the blade is to service and sharpen.

Spring 2012

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in the employment and the delivery of services and resources.

olympiawa.gov/grasscycling • 360.753.8509

Don't forget
your **FREE**
lawn sign!

