

# COMMERCIAL MOWING BASICS

**A well-manicured yard compliments a beautiful property. Proper lawn mowing not only helps improve curb appeal but is also an important factor in keeping a yard healthy.**

**PREP WORK** -Before any mow, it's best to clear property of debris. Professional property maintenance companies will often remove branches and trash, while the removal of pet waste and other loose objects are the responsibility of the customer. These steps can help prevent injury and keep equipment from damaging. Customers should also remember to secure pets and children and ensure the property is accessible to the crew.

**MOWING FREQUENCY** -How often mowing is needed is largely dependent on several factors including; if the property is fertilized and how often, if the lawn is irrigated or watered frequently, the amount of shade or sunlight the yard receives, and if temperatures are cooler or warmer. Cooler temperatures and fast growth can increase mowing frequency whereas warmer temperatures and slower growth will require fewer mows.

**GRASS HEIGHT** -Many believe that cutting grass short means you won't have to mow as often. Not true! When grass is cut too short, it provides less shade to shield its roots which can cause scorching and yellowing from the sun's heat. For a healthy and lush lawn, grass should never be cut below 3 inches. 3 - 3.25 inches in the Springtime is an average healthy cutting height. Cutting the yard at 3.5 - 4 inches during the Summer months is a great way to keep grass from stressing. When mowing season starts, mowing blades should be set high and lowered gradually with each following cut until the desired height is achieved. If the grass is cut too short too fast, it stresses the grass.

**EDGING & TRIMMING** - Edging is when an edger is used to make actual cuts in the lawn to create lines between the grass and paths, boundaries, or flowerbeds. Trimming is the cutting of grass in areas too small for a mower, such as among a fence or around yard objects. Trimming should match the height of the grass that was cut with a mower to provide a complete and uniform appearance.

**CLEAN UP** -Grass clippings should be removed from all hard services of the property such as driveways, porches, and sidewalks. Allowing some clippings to remain in the yard helps fertilize the soil and promote growth.

**MISCELLANEOUS** -Blades will get dull over time so it's important to keep them sharpened and balanced. Regular blade sharpening can prevent dull blades and lower the chances of diseases and pests caused by tattered cuts.

It is important to change the mowing pattern each mow. Grass develops a grain, based on cutting direction, and tends to lean towards the direction of mow. Changing direction will lead to more upright growth and help avoid ruts.

Newly planted grass and grass seeds shouldn't be mowed immediately. Waiting 3-4 weeks after installation will help the grass to become established and withstand mowing.

Avoid mowing grass when wet either from intentional watering or weather. Dry grass will allow for a more even cut. Wet grass can clump up in the yard, weigh down equipment, potentially produce fungus, and create an uneven cut.

Aeration, seeding, and fertilizing can also promote growth and increase yard health.

**Dunham's Lawn Care can provide professional maintenance for your property. Consistent care is key to a healthy lawn. Let us help you achieve a perfectly groomed lawn that everyone will notice.**

Contact us today for more information about our services!

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