

## Montgomery County educates Landscapers about Grasscycling.

In an effort to reduce the amount of yard trim materials generated and delivered to County facilities, the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services has implemented a comprehensive effort to educate residents, businesses, multi-family property owners and managers, landscape contractors and lawn care service providers to handle yard trim materials in a different manner. Please help us by grasscycling today and educating your customers about the benefits of grasscycling. In addition to a wide variety of educational and informational materials to provide to your customers, staff from the Division of Solid Waste Services are available to conduct community composting and grasscycling workshops and provide educational materials at community events.

For more information about these educational services, please contact the Division of Solid Waste Services at 3-1-1.



*Educational display highlighting the benefits of grasscycling at the Landscape Contractors Association's annual winter conference.*



Montgomery County, Maryland  
Division of Solid Waste Services  
Waste Reduction and Recycling Section

101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
Phone: 3-1-1 or (240) 777-0311 outside Montgomery County  
TTY: (240) 773-3556  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling)

This information is available in an alternate format by calling Alan Pultyniewicz at (240) 777-6480.

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# Grasscycling

## Information for Landscape Contractors

## Educating Your Customers About Grasscycling

Grasscycling is an environmentally friendly, simple, less expensive, and time saving approach to managing grass clippings. Encourage your residential and commercial customers to let you grasscycle, leaving the grass clippings on the lawn after it is mowed. Let your customers know how grasscycling helps the environment and how it can save time.

## History of Yard Trim Management in Montgomery County

Montgomery County, Maryland has enacted a comprehensive yard trim recycling program for all single-family residents, multi-family properties (apartments and condominiums) and businesses requiring everyone to recycle grass clippings, leaves, brush, garden trimmings and Christmas trees. Many single-family residents recycle their yard trim materials through the County's weekly curbside recycling collection service. However, a portion of single-family homeowners and many multi-family and commercial property owners and managers contract lawn care services with independent landscape contractors or lawn care service providers to manage their yard trim materials either on or off-site.

The yard trim materials that are collected at the curbside and those materials delivered to the yard trim drop-off area at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station in Derwood by residents, commercial customers and lawn service companies are ultimately transported to the County's 118-acre Composting Facility located in Dickerson, Maryland. There, the materials are processed into commercially available soil conditioner products called Leafgro and Compro.

Through an agreement with the residents in the Dickerson community, only 77,000 tons annually of yard trim materials may be processed at the Composting Facility. Any excess of yard trim materials must be delivered to other composting/recycling facilities at additional costs. By grasscycling, you are reducing the amount of yard trim materials that may be processed at County facilities.

## What is Grasscycling?

Grasscycling is the process of leaving grass clippings directly on the lawn when it is mowed, instead of placing them in marked, reusable containers or in paper lawn bags placed at the curb for recycling collection. This process allows the grass clippings to dry out and decompose providing vital nutrients to the grass and soil.

## Why Grasscycle?

- Reduces the amount of time needed to bag or containerize grass clippings or transport them off-site.
- Reduces the amount of time needed to deliver yard trimmings to the yard trim recycling area at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.
- Saves your company money! There is a tipping fee to recycle yard trim materials at the County's facility. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/yardtrim) for the most current fee schedule.
- Reduces your fuel cost to transport grass clippings off-site.



*Pile of yard trim material delivered for composting at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. Grasscycling reduces the amount of yard trim materials processed by the County.*

- Reduces the need for excess use of commercial fertilizers, which is better for the environment.
- Protects the environment by slowing runoff from rain and melting snow, preventing erosion, and trapping sediments and chemicals before they enter streams and waterways.

## What Can Your Company Do?

- Promote grasscycling services to your customers.
- Educate both your residential and commercial customers about the importance of grasscycling and how they can help.
- Dispel the common myths associated with grasscycling, such as thatch build-up and increased chance of lawn disease.
- Show your customers how they are helping to protect the environment by permitting your company to grasscycle their grass clippings.
- Let your customers know that they are part of the waste reduction solution.

The Division of Solid Waste Services has numerous resources available to help you educate your customers about grasscycling. Contact us to order brochures, informational door hangers and educational refrigerator magnets that you can provide to your customers.

