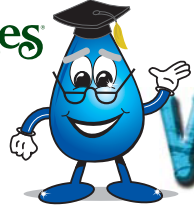


The Villages



WATER WISDOM

SMART MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN FLORIDA'S FRIENDLIEST HOMETOWN

Crew Cuts Curb Conservation

Many Floridians think that a short-clipped lawn characterizes a healthy, well-maintained lawn. Although it gives the appearance of being well manicured, it actually may stress the grass and decrease the depth to which roots may grow, increasing the need for water. Short lawns are also more susceptible to weeds, insects and diseases. To encourage grass roots to grow deeper, your lawn should be cut at the highest recommended height, 4" for St. Augustine or Bahia and 2" for Empire Zoysia.

Mowing regularly and cutting no more than one-third of the grass length will reduce the stress on the grass blades and also makes it unnecessary to remove the short grass clippings from your lawn. The only time you need to remove clippings is when they are in thick patches, which could decay and kill the grass. Clippings are an excellent source of slow-release nutrients to the turf and also reduce the lawn's need for both water and fertilizer.

To prevent damage to the grass, ensure mower blades are kept sharp. Grass damaged by dull blades will suffer stress and may appear tan and ragged and require more water.

For more tips and information, please visit
www.thevillageswaterwisdom.com