



# What The Experts Know About Lawn Mowing That You Don't



Lawn mowing might seem straightforward, but there's a science and art to it that can significantly impact the health and appearance of your lawn.

While the average homeowner knows to cut their grass regularly, there are nuances that lawn care experts utilize to ensure optimal growth and sustainability.

Here, we delve into these specifics, sharing professional tips that experts have been using for years.

## 1. How Often Should I Mow My Lawn?

A general rule of thumb is to cut your grass weekly or every other week during the summer, but it's not always that simple. [There really is no one-size-fits-all schedule for mowing your lawn.](#)

The frequency should depend on the growth rate of your grass, which is influenced by factors such as the type of grass, the season, and your local climate.

## 2. How Short Should I Mow My Grass?

The height at which you mow your lawn can significantly affect its health and resilience.

As a rule of thumb, the “**one-third**” rule should be applied - never cut more than one-third of the grass blade in a single mowing.

Experts say that it's better to keep your grass longer and mow it more often than to overcut it. Mowing too short makes your lawn more susceptible to weed invasion.

Each type of grass has an optimal mowing height, generally ranging from 1.5 to 3 inches. For an example of the variation you might see, Kentucky bluegrass thrives when maintained at around 2.5 to 3 inches, while fine fescue can grow up to 4 and still be healthy.

## 3. The Importance of Sharp Blades In Lawn Mowing

Dull mower blades tear grass rather than cutting it cleanly.

This tearing can lead to patches in your lawn and makes it more vulnerable to pathogens.

[Experts recommend](#) sharpening mower blades around two to three times a year or after about 20 to 25 hours of use to ensure a clean, healthy cut.

## 4. How Should I Care For My Lawn Before and After Mowing?

Watering your lawn before mowing can make the process more difficult and can lead to uneven cuts. It's best to mow when the grass is dry.

Post-mowing, leaving the grass clippings on the lawn can be beneficial as they decompose and recycle nutrients back into the soil. However, ensure that the clippings are small enough ([an inch or less in length](#)) to decompose quickly, otherwise, they might smother your grass.

## 5. How To Slow Down Lawn Growth

To minimize rapid grass growth, focus on minimizing excessive nitrogen as it encourages fast growth. Opt for a [slow-release nitrogen fertilizer](#) and apply it during the peak growing seasons of your specific grass type.

[Another benefit to keeping your grass a little longer](#): It'll actually grow more slowly. It's the same concept we apply to haircuts!

And one final hack for mowing haters: You can keep the appearance of a well-kept lawn without actually mowing it by tidying up the edges with a weedeater and by investing in diverse landscaping, which can filter your soil.

## 6. Do Mowing Patterns Matter?

Yes! Avoid mowing in the same direction or pattern each time. It can lead to bare spots in your lawn. Plus, it can make it harder to reseed these spots since mowing in one direction compacts your soil.

Switching up your mowing pattern not only improves the look of your lawn but also reduces wear patterns and aids in more uniform growth.

## 7. Lawn Aeration: The Secret to a Healthier Lawn

Mowing isn't the end-all-be-all of a healthy lawn. [Aeration is important, too!](#)

Aeration involves perforating the soil with small holes to allow air, water, and nutrients to penetrate the grass roots.

This helps the roots grow deeply and produce a stronger, more vigorous lawn.

The best time for aeration is during the growing season, when the grass can heal and fill in any open areas after soil plugs are removed.

## Final Thoughts

Lawn care is less simple than it seems on the surface, and it can be helpful to employ a lawn care service to keep your yard healthy and beautiful.

If you're in the Louisville, Kentucky, area, consider [Walnut Ridge Landscape & Design](#) for your lawn care needs.