



## AMAIZEINLY GREEN

### *Cutting it right.*

By Martin Oosterveld

We've now had a couple of weeks since I suggested you apply AMAIZEINGLY GREEN fertilizer/ weed control on your lawn. Hopefully you've followed my suggestion. There is still time give your lawn a boost if you're a bit slow off the mark this year. I did my aerating a bit late but it's now done. I've even got my new emission free, neighbour friendly cordless electric mower. As I send this off we are having a gentle spring rain. So now it's time to set the mower and start cutting.

It is important to set your mower to cut at a height of about 3 inches or 70 to 80 mm. This may be higher than you have previously cut your grass. Leaving it that long is important for keeping the grass vigorous. You need enough above ground plant surface area to do the photosynthesis. Remember that the food for both the tops and roots comes from photosynthesis. Root growth is deeper with taller grass. That makes the grass more drought resistant later in the season.

Taller grass shades the weeds and it cuts down soil evaporation. Using nothing but natural or organic substances on your lawn means you have to use nature's ways of keeping weeds under control. You should never cut more than 1/3 of the blade of grass at once. If you get behind, set the mower higher and wait for the next cutting to catch up. If your lawn is totally shaded most of the day, it will not grow as fast and it should be cut longer to give it a chance to photosynthesize.

The mower blade should always be sharp to make sure you get a clean cut. Dull blades tear and stress the grass and make it vulnerable to disease.

You should always mulch your clippings. They are a great source of organic matter and I can't conceive of sending them to a landfill. In the event that there are spots that have too many clippings on the surface, simply take a rake and spread them out. Mulching clippings saves a lot of time and decreases the fertilizer you have to add over the growing season.

Enjoy the green grass at this time of year. Cool nights and enough natural rainfall create ideal conditions for healthy grass to grow. Cutting the grass for the first time each season makes the lawn look nice and even and the clippings smell great.

Our AMAIZEINGLY GREEN sales and fundraising campaign is still in full swing. This week you will see a brochure with the flyers attached to this newspaper. Make sure you use the promotional code 54505 if you order on-line through [Rotarycollingwoodsgb.org](http://Rotarycollingwoodsgb.org). For the more traditional shoppers we have added retail outlets at GRAPHIC WEAR HOUSE, 140 Hurontario Street, Collingwood and COXY'S SMALL MOTORS located at 9485 Highway# 26 E. Collingwood. Both of these locations are donating their time and space to Rotary.

Martin Oosterveld Ph.D. is a member of the Rotary Club of Collingwood South Georgian Bay.