

Grass Clippings

Why are grass clippings on sidewalks/streets an issue?

Harmful to storm water quality and structures

Vegetative wastes particularly grass clippings are harmful to storm water. The nutrients released when the clippings begin to decompose can be toxic to aquatic life. The harmful effects don't stop at aquatic life, an unhealthy water body affects the entire ecosystem. Additionally, grass clippings and other plant debris can clog storm water structures, increasing the risk of storm system failure and flooding.

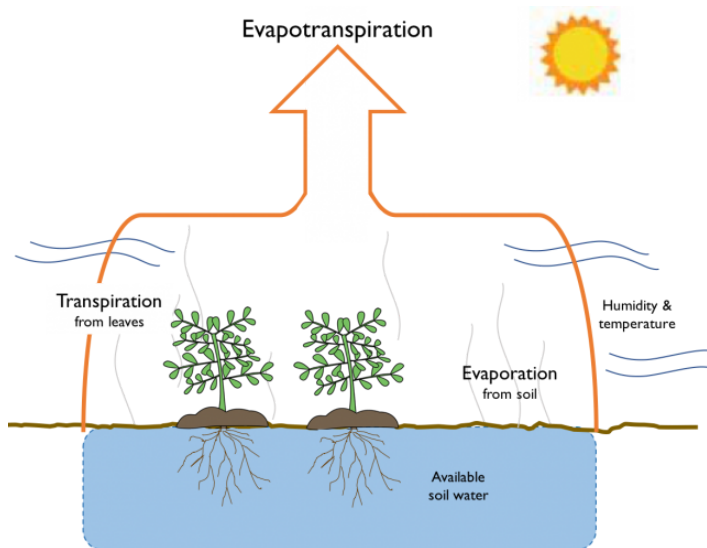


Unightly, can temporarily stain concrete

As a homeowner, you can invest in a lawn mower that is equipped with a mulching kit that allows grass to be cut into smaller pieces and come to rest on the landscape mostly right below the cutting deck. Alternatively, you can also bag grass clippings and dispose of them in a waste receptacle. Either of these styles are preferable over the grass chute style that spits full length clippings out and away from the mower often onto hardscapes. Either method you use though, please ensure that grass clippings do not get left on sidewalks or roadways. Sweep or blow grass clippings back into landscaping. This will prevent grass clippings from ending up in the storm water system and/or staining your concrete.

Grass clippings are a valuable nutrient

Luckily, the same nutrients that can be harmful to water quality are quite beneficial to soils/plants. Keeping grass clippings in the grass will help place nutrients back into the soil, decrease *evapotranspiration rates, and protect storm water quality as well as preventing clogs in storm water structures.



*Decrease evapo...what?

Evapotranspiration is simply the rate of water loss from evaporation of water from soils and water loss from plants when they transpire. Transpire is a plant's way of "sweating" during hot times of the day. So decreasing evapotranspiration rates means you can water your lawn for less time because more water is retained in the soil.

Please do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks free of grass clippings. Thank you for helping to build a better Orem!