# RemoveClippings To Improve Lawn

Give your lawn a healthy, If your lawn has already de- Thatch removal should be well groomed look this summer veloped a dense layer of thatch, done when grass is growing by removing grass clippings immediately after mowing, says Dr. William H. Mitchell, extension agronomist at the University of Delaware.

Contrary to popular belief, clippings do not make a lawn green and fertile, he explains. In fact, they may actually harm the grass. Clippings left on the lawn may add to the accumulation of thatch, the dead material around grass roots. This, in turn, interferes with air and water movement and encourages disease.

A thick layer of thatch may prevent rain or irrigation water from reaching the soil, says Mitchell. Under these conditions, grass will grow poorly and will probably become brown and unattractive by mid-

Clippings may be particularly serious early in the season when grass is making active growth. If the grass is unusually tall before mowing and if clippings are overly thick, they may even smother the grass.

To prevent an over accumulation of thatch, attach a tray or bag to your lawn mower to catch clippings, advises Mitchell. If grass is exceptionally tall and the bag fills rapidly, it may be easier to rake the lawn after mowing.

Use clippings as a mulch in your flower or vegetable garden and around ornamentals, he

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moisture and help promote or garden center. This implevigorous growth. Spread clippment has vertical cutting blades apply a heavy layer that might face where it may be raked and the soil.

ings evenly, taking care not to which move thatch to the surprevent water from reaching removed. Thatch, like clippings, may be used as a mulch.

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remove it immediately. In most vigorously, says Mitchell. For summer. In bermula and zoysia, areas, thatch removal tools may bluegrass and fescue lawns, the thatch should be removed in adds. This will conserve soil be rented at a nearby hardware best time is in the spring or late early or midsummer.

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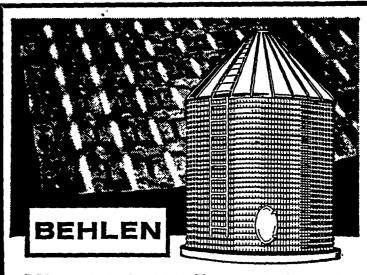
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