

## Only Bolens would Dare!!



# **MULCHING FACTS**

## <u>Mulching...What Is It?</u>

Mulching is the process of returning valuable nutrients to the soil.

#### Why Use A <u>Mulching Mower?</u>

A mulching mower has four major advantages over conventional bag-type mowers:

Firist, it gives you a neat looking lawn without the nuisance of raking or bagging clippings. This means more time for leisure activities.

Second, it returns vital nutrients to the soil. This reduces the need for commercial fertilizers. Since grass is composed of from 4% to 6% nitrogen, mulching the clippings makes the lawn greener, encourages proper root growth, and increases resistance to disease.

Third, it's faster. When you eliminate the nuisance of raking and bagging, you also eliminate 40% to 50% of the total mowing time.

Fourth, it eliminates finding a place for your clippings. Many communities will not pick up grass with the trash.

#### How Does A Mulching Mower Work?

A mulching mower utilizes a specially engineered multi-pitch blade and a deep mowing deck. The blade and deck combine to create air suction to hold grass upright and, once cut, suspend the clippings in the mowing chamber, while repeatedly chopping them into finer particles. These small particles are then blown deep into the turf near the soil level, where they decompose quickly.

#### How Is This Different From A Conventional Mower Without A Bag?

A conventional side discharge mower blows clippings horizontally onto the lawn rather than forcing them down into the turf. The long clippings lie on the lawn surface in unsightly brown clumps. This layer of dead clippings can sometimes become thick enough to exclude sunlight, causing yellowing and weakening of the turf. And long clippings take a long time to filter down to the soil surface, thereby slowing the decomposition process.

#### What Do Scientists Say About Mulching?

Independent university studies by agronomists using mulching mowers have determined that:

1. Mulch particles decompose and are absorbed by the grass root system within 14 days.

2. Mulch slows evaporation at the soil level.

3. Mulch does not add to thatch build-up.

4. Mulching results in a generally greener, healthier lawn.

# Are There Any Drawbacks To Using A Mulching Mower? Mulching can be difficult when grass is either wet or

exceptionally long.

Mowing wet grass can cause clumping in the mowing chamber and interfere with proper mulching action

To remedy this two passes should be made the first cut one setting above the formal cutting beight and the second cut it a neuror cutting level a day or two later

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