

MOWING PRACTICES TO PRODUCE A MORE VIGOROUS LAWN AND PROTECT OUR LAKES.

When it comes to mowing, there's only one rule to observe. That's the rule of one-third. Never cut more than one-third of the grass blade at any one time. By following this recommended lawn practice you can promote deeper root growth which will help prevent erosion and increase nutrient intake of the lawn. When you mow, vary your pattern. Mowing in the same direction every time tends to compact the soil. Remember to provide a buffer strip along the shoreline. Do not allow grass clippings to enter the lake where they will quickly decompose and release nitrogen into the water adding to our already high nutrient level. Set your lawn mower to leave the grass two or three inches long. Our lawns are the last stop before surface water enters our lakes.

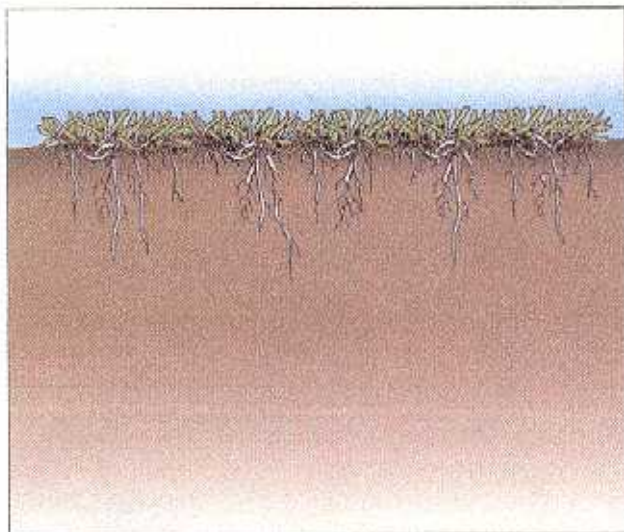
SCALPED VS. CORRECT

One of the most common and costly lawn care mistakes is scalping the grass—cutting off more than one-third the height of the blade at any one time. Removing too much of the grass blade in any one mowing

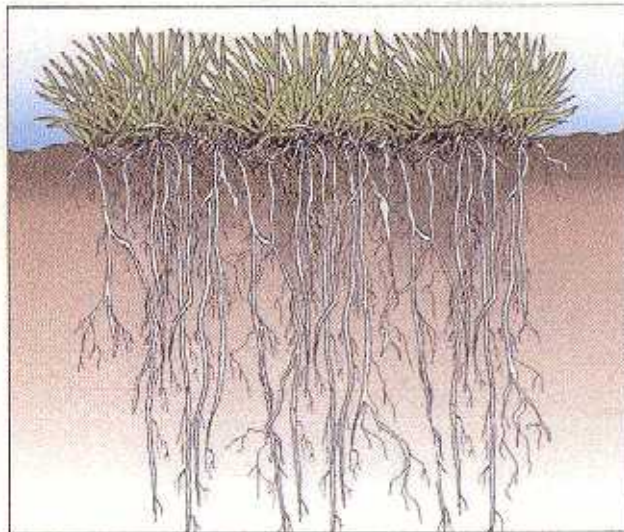
shocks the plant and dramatically slows the growth of the roots. It also exposes the shaded stems to too much sunlight, causing them to burn. On the other hand, cutting one-third or less of the blade allows the roots

to continue growing deeply to strengthen the plant.

If the lawn has a yellowish or brownish cast immediately after mowing, that's a sure sign that it has been scalped.



When grass is cut too short, or scalped, the growth of the roots is slowed, and plant growth is virtually halted until the leaves can recover.



When grass is properly mown, with less than one-third of the blade removed, the roots continue growing, and the grass thrives.