

Mowing Height Assessments on Kentucky Bluegrass

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An area of Kentucky bluegrass has been maintained with several mowing heights during the 1998 season. Each plot is mowed by the one-third rule. For example, plots mowed at 2-inch height are cut when the height of the turf is 3 inches, and a 4-inch cutting height necessitates mowing when the turf is 6 inches tall. This means that different plots are mowed on different days. However, this week all plots were mowed on Monday, two days before Field Day.

Each plot is 26 ft x 6 ft (156 ft²). Adjacent plots are 4 ft from each other so that mowing directions and wheel tracks can be varied. All plots are mowed with a rotary-type mower with clippings returned. The area between plots is cut with a reel-type mower at a lower height than any of the treatments. Irrigation rate and frequency is 1/3 inch per night, three times per week. The plot area receives 1 lb nitrogen per 1000 ft² in late fall, mid spring, early summer, and late summer.

Each tour participant will be asked to assign each plot with one of the following designations:

- S - mowing height too short
- OK - good height of cut
- T - mowing height too tall.

The results of this survey will be analyzed to determine the mowing height(s) preferred by professional turf managers.