

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

MULCHING MOWERS

Husqvarna provides ten top tips on the benefits of using mulching over traditional cutting/collecting methods

1. Make sure your machine is capable of mulching.

It is essential that you identify the correct machine for your needs. We would recommend a pedestrian mower for smaller grass areas, and a ride on machine for larger lawn sizes of over half an acre. Due to its maneuverability, an outfront rider is ideal in complicated and tight areas.

2. Make sure the decks are mulch capable.

There are a variety of decks on the market that offer different cutting methods. Mulch plugs and blanking plates are available as accessories for some decks that come with a collector, although a deck designed primarily for mulching, will most certainly give a better performance. The Husqvarna Combi deck is designed primarily for mulching but also has the benefit of quickly and easily converting to rear discharge making it suitable for a wider variety of areas and conditions.

3. Make sure the weather conditions are correct.

Obviously, to ensure best performance and finish avoid mulching during prolonged periods of excessively wet weather. In periods of dry or drought conditions the mulched clippings help to retain moisture within the soil.

4. Use your mulching mower to improve poor grass areas.

Regular and correct use of mulching can improve grass growing conditions by helping to create a micro environment that releases up to 50% of required nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

5. Choose the optimum time to mulch.

The ideal ground temperature to mulch is between 5-30 degrees, too warm or too cold prevents the micro climate that ensures the breakdown of the clippings. Early morning or late evening mulching, ensures maximum moisture retention during dry periods.

6. Clean and maintain your lawnmower.

Regular maintenance and cleaning is key to ensure the longevity of your machine and an optimal cutting performance. A clean deck chamber ensures maximum area to optimise the multiple cutting and reduction of clippings before they are returned to the lawn. A better finish is also achieved through sharp blades. If the cut is clean and sharp the risk of dehydration and disease decreases, compared to the cut being rough or jagged. Dull blades can cause up to 20% higher fuel consumption compared to sharp blades.

7. Pay attention to the cutting height.

The decomposition of the grass occurs more rapidly if only one-third of the blade length is cut. No more than half of the length of the grass blade should ever be cut as this would increase the risk of dehydration due to a loss of fluid within the plant. A minimum height of cut should always be maintained to maximize the micro climate; this is approximately 30mm-50mm in the United Kingdom.

8. Cut little and often.

To achieve the best result we would recommend that you cut the grass regularly. In the height of the cutting season we would suggest every 4-5 days. Leaving the grass to grow too much will require multiple cutting to return to the normal maintained height and ensure the best finish. Reduced mowing time occurs due to the time recovered by the removal of the need to manage the collected clippings.

9. Go green.

Mulching is a more time efficient way to maintain your grass, the lack of clippings means no time is spent on collecting! Since more councils in the UK are refusing to pick up green waste this alleviates any trips to the local recycling centre and equally the managing of large compost heaps.

10. Reap the benefits.

Although at certain times there is a need to manage weather and grass mowing conditions, improvements in deck technology, along with the additional benefits gained throughout the year of, reduced mowing times in general, the opportunity to improve health, reduction of costs in fertilising and watering together with the environmental arguments have all been influential in seeing a significant increase in the adoption of mulching within the UK over the past 10 years.



Husqvarna are pleased to offer a product demonstration service should you wish evaluate the benefits yourself, for further information and to locate your nearest dealer please visit www.husqvarna.co.uk