

Scalping potential is high**April 22, 2016**

The turf is really starting to grow. The long and slow soaking rains, in combination with soil temperatures in the mid-fifties, has caused the turf to jump out of the ground. Even our warm-season grasses like buffalograss and zoysiagrass are starting to grow again. It can be difficult to keep up with mowing this time of year; especially your PRE was in combination with nitrogen fertilizer. If you've fallen behind or the weather has prevented you from mowing, then increase the height of your mower. You can set it back the recommended 2.5 to 3.5" the next time you mow. We recommend mulch mowing whenever possible, but sometime it helps to bag when the grass is very tall or wet. Those large clumps of clippings can smother the live turf below. If you bag, don't throw the clippings in the trash. They can make good compost material. Stop bagging clippings once you get your lawn back under control.

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Figure 1. This lawn has been freshly scalped. Raise mowing heights to avoid rapidly growing spring turf.



Figure 2. Some turf cultivars start growing sooner, and faster, than others do. For example, the forage type tall fescue on the right (KY-31) is growing much faster this spring than a improved turf-type tall fescue (Sypder).