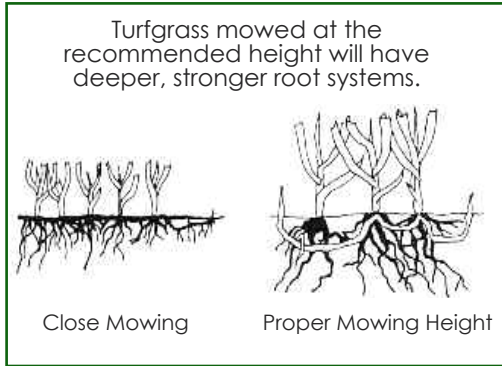


# Raise Mower Height for Healthier Lawns, Cleaner Water

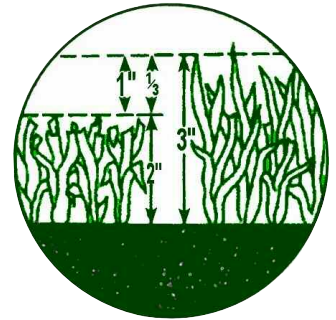
Turfgrass, like other plants, must manufacture sugars through photosynthesis in their leaves if they are to develop into a high quality lawn. Closely mowed lawns have limited leaf area to take in the sunlight to produce the food they need to be healthy.



Source: Ohio State University Extension

In addition to leaf area, a direct relationship exists between the height of turfgrass plants and the depth and total mass of their root system. ***Kentucky blue grass and tall fescue lawns mowed at the recommended summer height of 3 inches have roots more than twice as deep as those of closely cropped lawns.*** The shallow, weak roots of closely mowed lawns exhibit stress first and loss of grass plants to competing weeds is more likely, particularly during the summer. Raising mower heights during the summer will keep soil temperatures cooler, preserve soil moisture and help maintain turfgrass quality.

Thicker lawns are more weed resistant, absorb more stormwater, lose less sediment during storms, and need less fertilizer. So this June, ***remember to raise your mower height to three inches, or remind your lawn service company, for a healthier lawn and cleaner streams this summer.***



## THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROTECT CLEAN WATER!