

# HOW TO CREATE THE PERFECT LAWN STRIPES

**From sports fields to your creative next door neighbour, we have all envied those awesome, manicured, striped patterns on the grass.**

**It used to be that only professional landscapers were able to be creative, some using fancy attachments and specific mowers. Nowadays, striping equipment has evolved and it's simpler and more affordable. Moreover, with the right technic, anyone can create those coveted stripes.**

**Here are some tips to help you achieve beautiful lawn stripes:**

## **IS IT A KIND OF MAGIC?**

Stripes are not an optical illusion. They are the result of light reflecting off the blades of grass blades bent in opposite directions. If the grass is bent towards you, it will look darker due to the underlying shadows. Grass bent away from you appears lighter in color. Alternating the direction you mow creates the stripes on your lawn.

## **PLAN YOUR STRIPE PATTERN**

Decide on the pattern you want to create before you start mowing. Popular patterns include straight stripes, checkerboard, and diamond patterns. You can also create your own unique pattern based on your creativity and lawn size/shape. Planning your stripe pattern in advance will help you achieve a more precise and visually appealing result.

## **ALTERNATE MOWING DIRECTION**

To create a more pronounced striped effect, alternate the direction of your mowing each time you mow your lawn. For example, if you mowed north to south in one session, mow east to west in the next session. This will help enhance the appearance of the stripes and prevent the grass from leaning in one direction.

## **MOW IN STRAIGHT LINES**

To create straight lawn stripes, mow in straight lines back and forth across your lawn. Use a reference point, such as a sidewalk or driveway, to help you mow straight. Take your time and try to keep the lines as straight as possible for a clean and professional-looking result.



#### **MOW YOUR LAWN TO THE PROPER HEIGHT**

Before attempting to create lawn stripes, make sure your grass is mowed to the proper height. Different grass types have different recommended mowing heights, so be sure to research and follow the appropriate height for your specific grass type. Cool season types of grass tend to work better. These would include fescue, bluegrass or rye. Mowing your grass to the proper height will help the stripes stand out more prominently.

#### **CHOOSE THE RIGHT LAWN MOWER**

The type of lawn mower you use can affect the quality of your lawn stripes. For best results, use a lawn mower with a roller or striping kit attachment. The roller or striping kit will help flatten the grass in one direction as you mow, creating the striped effect.

#### **KEEP YOUR LAWN MOWER BLADES SHARP**

Sharp lawn mower blades are essential for a clean and neat cut. Dull blades can tear the grass, resulting in a ragged appearance and uneven stripes. Make sure to sharpen your lawn mower blades regularly to ensure a crisp cut and a professional-looking result.

Also, avoid mowing or striping when your grass is wet. Not only will it jam your lawn mower blades, it will create a matted look, not the stripes you desire.

#### **MAINTAIN A HEALTHY LAWN**

A healthy and well-maintained lawn will provide the best canvas for creating lawn stripes. Make sure to water, fertilize, and aerate your lawn as needed to promote healthy grass growth. Healthy grass will be more upright and vibrant, enhancing the appearance of your lawn stripes.

It is best to change the striping pattern every two weeks for premium striping effect.

With these tips, you can create beautiful and eye-catching lawn stripes that will enhance the overall appearance of your lawn. Remember to always follow proper lawn care practices and be mindful of the specific needs of your grass type for the best results.

If you need a striping mower, we have a compact walk behind option: the TORO Pro Stripe 560 (depicted in the photo above). It features a two-piece ribbed roller design to leave a crisp stripe, the MatchCut™ technology enables precision setting of the height of cut. Talk to our experts today to order yours.

Happy striping!