



## MOWING AREAS

California native grasses are being used more and more as Eco-friendly lawn alternatives

Delta Bluegrass Company's Native Sod Products take different forms depending on their use

Urban Landscapes / Parks / Streetscapes



## MOWING

Our lawns have become a major player in our eco-system. Landscaping with DELTA BLUEGRASS peat sod is a wise environmental decision. California Native turf generates oxygen for the atmosphere and cleans the air of toxic gaseous pollutants.

**The desired appearance and projected use of your sod area will determine the mowing height and frequency.**

## MOWING HEIGHTS

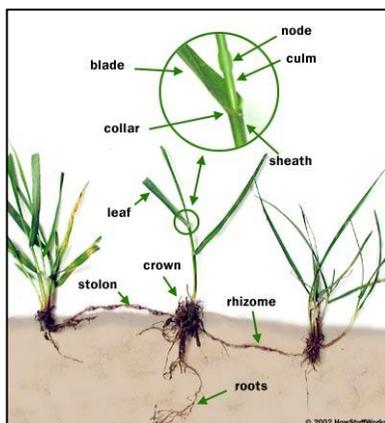
Native Bentgrass™ is the industry's first choice for native lawn areas.

- Maintain at 1 ½ to 2 inch mowing height to provide an exceptional playing surface.

Native Mow Free™, Delta Grasslands Mix™, Native Preservation Mix™, Delta Native Heartland Sod™ and Biofiltration Sod™

- Maintain these grasses at a mowing height of 3 to 4 inches.

Mowing height has a lot to do with the overall health of your lawn. NEVER remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade per mow cycle. To best understand what defines a LEAF BLADE please examine the plant diagram.



Cutting the leaf blade involves the part of the plant that grows above the crown. Removing more than 1/3 can damage the plant and cause it to die back and thus taking several weeks or longer to make a recovery. Our Native Bentgrass™ has both rhizomes and stolons. A rhizome is an underground plant stem that is capable of producing the shoot and stem of a new plant. Stolons are shoots that grow horizontally above the ground and produce roots. This process can raise the crown of the plant and significantly affect the mowing height. If you wish to maintain a playable surface it is essential that you consistently mow the area to the preferred height.

## **MOWING TIPS**

- Mow areas when turf is dry.
- When using a non-mulching mower, break up any clumps or clippings left behind to avoid yellowing of the turf.
- As weather conditions change the plant growth will begin to slow and mowing heights can be gradually dropped.
- Throughout the fall keep leaves from surrounding trees and shrubs from accumulating and smothering the grass.
- Keep mower blades well sharpened for the best cut. A dull blade tears at the grass which can weaken the turfs ability to fight off pests and disease. Sharpen blades a minimum of twice a year.

The use of a “mulching lawn mower” is a responsible environmental practice. Grasscycling is the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowed. Mulched clippings will quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. Grasscycling saves time, money and protects the environment by reducing the amount of yard waste disposed of in our landfills.

There are several mowers that can be used in the maintenance of these grasses. Rotary and Mulching mowers are the most commonly used. However, Electric powered mowers further reduce your carbon footprint.

## **MOWER TYPES**

**ROTARY MOWERS:** These traditional style mowers propel in a circle close to the ground providing a mowing heights from 1 ½ to 3 ½ inches.

**MULCHING ROTARY MOWERS:** Mulching mowers discharge grass differently than conventional mowers. These mowers use a special mulching blade that returns the grass clippings to the lawn through a continuous cut and re-cut motion

**BIG WHEEL ROTARY MOWERS:** These mowers resemble traditional rotary mowers but with 16 to 20 inch rear wheels that are semi-pneumatic. This allows you to push through high stands of turf with balance, easy handling and maneuverability on rough uneven terrain. Maximum mow height with these mowers is 4 inches, however, Sarlo Power Mowers, Inc. has 1 model called the High Cut Mower that will cut up to a 5 inch mowing height.

**REEL MOWERS:** Many of you may remember these mowers from 20 years back. Using a blade assembly with horizontal cutting blades, modern versions of this cylinder push style mower are easy to use and provide clean air gardening.

**FLAIL MOWERS:** This type of mower is used to provide a rough cut to tall stands of thick grass. They are most commonly used by golf course grounds managers and along roadsides.

**STRING TRIMMER:** Available in both gas and electric versions, these handheld devices use a flexible nylon type string instead of a blade for cutting grass. It is recommended to use this method when you are removing the seed heads from the grass in the spring. It is difficult to use a string trimmer to reduce large areas to low heights without causing damage to the plant.

**DELTA BLUEGRASS COMPANY**

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