

Hondalawnlovers

Notch Settings for Honda mowers



NOTCH SETTINGS FOR A HONDA MOWER AND GETTING THE HEIGHT RIGHT FOR YOU

FOR SHADE

Start with the highest setting. This is generally the best setting for shade, but if you feel it is too long, you can try lowering it one setting. Do not mow short in shade, or it will result in a thin looking lawn.

For Light shade to full sun. Start mowing at the second highest setting, and work your way down till you are happy with the height. Things for you to know when choosing your preferred setting:

1. The higher the setting, or the longer the leaf length on the grass, the more drought a lawn can take. There is a correlation with a higher mowing height and a deeper root system.
2. In full sun a longer lawn may thatch slightly more, meaning you may need to dethatch each year or two, particularly for some lawn types that are prone to thatching. Lower the height, but try to make sure the lawn is not scalped. See Below on point 3.
3. A lawn that is regularly scalped is more prone to disease, and other damage. Scalping occurs where the lawn has brown patches after mowing. Grasses like Couch are particularly prone to this. Remedy: Raise height to stop scalping on Kikuyu, Buffalo, and Zoysia. On Couch you may just need to put up with a level of scalping.
4. What if I want a tight looking short mown turf? In regions like Perth and even in other parts of the country, many want a really short looking lawn. The first thing is to mow very regularly, meaning for most lawn types at least once per week in the mowing season. Secondly, it pays to water short mown lawns more regularly, as they are not as drought tolerant. In places like Perth, most lawns are watered twice per week with an irrigation system. Controlling thatch is important in many short mown lawns. Fertilise more often to allow the lawn to cope better with the short mowing. For some people, treating the lawn like a green keeper does, and mowing short is highly desirable. If this is you, don't forget the extras that a short mown lawn needs. To choose the right notch setting for a shortly mown lawn it may take a few weeks for a lawn to settle down and stop scalping too much. You may need to scalp the lawn the first mow slightly, and gradually find the height that is best for you.

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THATCH MANAGEMENT

To dethatch a lawn, use your Honda mower with a catcher to mow the lawn really short. You actually want it to scalp. Do not take it back to dirt, but mow it so you take at least half the thatch away. The catcher will collect the clippings. Fertilise with a slow release fertiliser and water well. In a few weeks your lawn will look great again, without the thatch. The best time to do this is in spring when the lawn is starting to grow well again. Avoid scalping cool climate turf types like Fescue, Blue Grass and Rye grass. Couch, Kikuyu, Buffalo, and Zoysia all benefit from dethatching occasionally, generally every two years or so.