

Grass verge maintenance (urban)

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Service summary:

We must keep the highway safe for all those using it – pedestrians, motorists and others. We may therefore have to cut the grass at the edge of the road in some places.

We also cut grass verges to keep things looking good for residents and visitors.

We will:

- Keep to our grass cutting schedule:

Area	Cuts per year	Notes
Urban grass verges	14	Cuttings left on ground
Ornamental roundabouts and flowerbeds	21	Cuttings are collected
Naturalised daffodils	10	Cutting starts in June after foliage has died
Rural verges	2	1 metre wide swathe, plus sight lines at junctions

- strim around obstacles such as bollards twice a month
- sweep or blow grass off paths where we don't collect it after cutting
- apply weedkiller to walls, fence lines and vehicle barriers in the winter and strim along these walls and fence lines in mid to late summer
- mow in the urban areas of Weston-super-Mare, Portishead, Nailsea and Clevedon, and in some other communities
- collect litter on the grass before we cut
- regularly inspect how often and how well grass has been cut to make sure contractors are keeping to our specification
- leave some verges uncut or hay-cut them in late summer to protect wildlife and encourage specific plants and animals.

Revised April 2009

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You can help by:

- cleaning up after your dog. This means mower drivers and strimmer users won't be covered with dog mess
- not dropping litter – please bin it or take it home with you.

The service does not include:

- collecting grass cuttings – in some places we leave them on the ground to rot down. This is better for the environment than removing them
- cutting grass on land we don't own.

Contact us:

Streets and Open Spaces **01934 888 802**
www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Frequently asked questions and answers for

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1. When will you be coming to cut my grass verge?

We cut verges a minimum of 14 times during the growing season – March to October. We don't give precise days of the week for cutting, because wet weather and the occasional problem with our machinery can disrupt the schedule.

2. They've cut the grass this morning, and there are cuttings all over the paths. What are you going to do about it?

Our contractor must clear grass from paths after cutting, either by brush or with a blower. Tell us where the problem is and we'll make sure they come back and clean up.

3. They've cut the grass this morning, and they've left it all over the paths. I didn't notice, and now I've trodden it in the house. Can you help?

We can certainly help by making sure our contractors come back and clean up. Unfortunately, we're not able to help with the grass in your house.

4. Can you get this mess cleared up - the grass has been cut and they've chopped up all the litter too.

Our contractor should clear litter before they cut the grass.

Tell us where the problem is and we'll make sure they come back and clear up the litter.

5. Why is grass overhanging the path?

We trim back overhanging grass every few years during winter.

6. Why have they have cut the grass but left the cuttings?

We do not collect grass cuttings on verges. They are left to rot down which is better for the environment.