



## Meadowlark Extension District Weekly Agent News Articles

**David Hallauer**  
**Meadowlark Extension District Agent**  
**Crops & Soils/Horticulture**

### **Letting Turf Grow Tall Before Winter**

On the surface, allowing turfgrass mowing heights to exceed typically recommended heights before winter sets in might seem reasonable. The thinking typically is that the extra foliage will insulate plant crowns to provide them some extra winter hardiness.

If mowing height has been lower than it should have been all summer, allowing turf to get a little taller might be fine. If you've been mowing at an appropriate height, continue to do so! Allowing turf height to exceed typically recommended mowing heights does little, if anything to increase winter hardiness and can actually increase winter diseases such as snow mold when turf gets laid over and matted down

The best way to increase cold tolerance is to increase plant health going in to winter via the use of good fertility, watering, and mowing programs year round! That may mean a soil test and appropriate fertilizer applications (the second most important fertilizer application window for cool season turf grasses: November!), watering if conditions are dry, and mowing at a normally recommended height. For tall fescue laws, that's two and a half to three and a half inches and two to three inches in height for bluegrass species. If you stay within these recommended ranges throughout the season, turf should be in good shape for winter.

### **Grain Storage Considerations**

Whether it be harvest time savings, the ability to better market grain – or both! – the value of on farm grain storage capacity to producers is great. It's only great, however, if storage results in good quality grain exiting the bin!

One of the better clearinghouses I've come across for grain storage information is from the CropWatch site at the University of Nebraska: <http://cropwatch.unl.edu/grainstorage2>. It's a great resource for everything from aeration to emergency storage, with links to information from a number of other states as well.

If you are storing grain – it's worth a look!