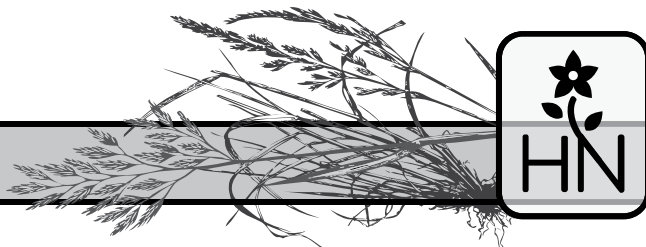


CARE GUIDE:

Lawn Care Schedules



The Basics

In this area, we have two lawn options. The first is to plant a cool-season grass, such as Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, or creeping red fescue. These varieties grow well from September to May, and are adapted to the NC Piedmont and Mountain regions. For best performance, we recommend a fescue blend. Perennial ryegrass is often over-seeded into dormant

warm-season lawn for winter color; not reliable as a permanent lawn. Alternatively, choose a warm-season grass for your lawn, such as bahiagrass, Bermudagrass, carpetgrass, centipedegrass, St. Augustine grass, or zoysiagrass. These thrive in hot weather (80 -95°F) and go dormant in cool temps.

WEEDS: Repeated invasions can occur in thin areas and bare soil. Poor lawns can result from planting a grass that is not adapted to our area, or improper mowing, watering, or fertilizing. Pre-emergent herbicides, including eco-friendly corn-gluten based pre-emergents, can prevent weeds from germinating. Don't apply prior to broadcasting seed, or just after seeding. Compacted soil, excess thatch, diseases, and insects can also affect lawn quality.

COOL

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS **Season** BLUEGRASS RYEGRASS

JANUARY

Don't fertilize. Avoid walking on frozen lawn. Hand pull winter annual weeds, or mow them down before they go to seed. Apply lime if needed.

FEBRUARY

Service lawn mower. Apply pre-emergent when daffodils and forsythia bloom (can happen in March.)

MARCH

Fertilize, if necessary, according to soil test results. If good color and vigor, wait until fall (best time to fertilize). Apply pre-emergent when daffodils and/or forsythia bloom. Can overseed bare spots, but fall is ideal.

APRIL

Don't fertilize established lawn. Mow frequently (no more than 1/3 the height of the lawn). Water early in the morning, if needed. On clay soils, apply 1" water per rainless week; observe any local water restrictions. (See June.)

MAY

Mow frequently, gradually raising height to 2.5-3.5" as temps warm. Apply a post-emergent

herbicide for your lawn type, or an eco-friendly pre-emergent, to control weeds. Apply in spring, summer, and fall; hand pull stray weeds.

JUNE

Mow frequently. Fescue is less drought tolerant than Kentucky bluegrass. Water fescue during dry spells, if needed, but at least every 3 weeks without rain. Kentucky bluegrass can go dormant and grow again with favorable conditions. Some signs of drought stress are:

- footprints remain well after walking on grass.
- bluish-gray cast
- leaves are rolled or folded
- Inserting a screwdriver into very dry ground is difficult.

JULY

See May, June. Apply corn-gluten pre-emergent, if using. If brown patch or pythium are present, collect clippings instead of leaving on grass. If irrigating, finish by sunrise. Apply fungicides, if needed.

GRASSES

AUGUST

Water dormant lawn every 3 weeks, if no rain, or reseeding may be needed in fall. Mow regularly, no more than 1/3 of grass height. Apply pre-emergent for winter or perennial weeds. If lawn appears wilted after watering, or if torn up by animals, it may have become grub infested. Cut and roll back several square-foot sections of turf. If more than 7 white grubs are found in each, apply grub control. Dethatch or aerate Kentucky bluegrass, if needed.

SEPTEMBER

Install sod, establish, renovate, or overseed cool-season lawns. Water newly seeded areas regularly. Aerate established lawns to alleviate compaction on clay soils. Fertilize cool season lawns. Soil tests are recommended every few years for proper fertilizing. Otherwise, use a 12-4-8 or 16-4-8 where 1/4 -1/2 the nitrogen is "slowly available" or "water insoluble". Mow as needed. Treat for grubs (see August).

OCTOBER

Apply pre-emergent herbicide when temps are consistently in mid-70s. Keep lawn free of falling leaves which can smother - shred/compost leaves to make mulch. Install sod. Last chance to reseed or start new lawn by seed. Mow as necessary. Water new lawns with 1" of water per rainless week (or as per water restrictions.) See following Tips for more watering info.

NOVEMBER

Install sod if soil isn't frozen. Keep new sod moist. Fertilize with a winterizer fertilizer (See September). Watch for rust and dollar spot diseases. Keep lawns free of falling leaves. Water new lawn with 1" of water per rainless week (or as per water restrictions.)

DECEMBER

Run gas mowers dry to prevent gummy buildup, or add stabilizer and run for a few minutes. Drain and replace oil and recycle used oil. Water new lawn with 1" of water per rainless week (or as per restrictions.) Apply lime, if needed.



NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

Rooted in Raleigh Since 1967

WARM

BAHIAGRASS
BERMUDAGRASS
CARPETGRASS

Season

CENTIPEDEGRASS
ST. AUGUSTINE'S
ZOYSIAGRASS

JANUARY

Water dormant and overseeded lawns if dry, unseasonably warm, or windy. Maintain lawn overseeded with rye-grass at 1" height. To prevent damage, avoid walking on lawn. Apply lime, if needed.

FEBRUARY

See January. Treat wild garlic with broadleaf herbicide (i.e. RoundUp) when temperature is above 50°F. Apply lime, if needed.

MARCH

Water dormant / overseeded lawns when dry, warm, or windy. Brown patch disease attacks as lawn emerges from dormancy; collect infested clippings. Avoid overfertilizing and overwatering to reduce disease. Apply pre-emergent herbicide late in the month.

APRIL

Overseed bare spots, seed new lawn, install sprigs/plugs (if day temps are consistently above 60°F.) Water new lawns regularly. Wait until established lawns are green before fertiliz-

*Calculate nitrogen/1,000sf. To be applied annually: Bermudagrass: 2-5 lbs.; Carpetgrass, Centipedegrass: 1/2-1lb.; St. Augustinegrass: 2-3 lbs.; Zoysiagrass: 1-3 lbs. To apply 1 lb. nitrogen per 1,000sf, divide 100 by the first number on the fertilizer bag to determine the amount of product to be used per 1,000sf. EXAMPLE: A 16-4-8 fertilizer. 100 divided by 16 equals 6.25. Therefore, 6.25 lbs. of fertilizer per 1,000sf will deliver 1 lb. nitrogen. Use low phosphorus or no phosphorus fertilizer for centipedegrass, such as 1-1-2 or 1-1-3. At least 1/4 - 1/2 of the nitrogen should be "slowly available" or "water insoluble". Note: These are ANNUAL rates and should be divided and applied during specified months.
** Mowing heights: Bermudagrass, Carpetgrass, Centipedegrass: 1-2"; St. Augustinegrass: 2-3"; Zoysiagrass: .75"-1.5". Leave undiseased clippings on lawn. They are equivalent to a 4-1-3 fertilizer!

ing.* Watch for brown patch, dollar spot, and deadspot diseases.

MAY

*Fertilize St. Augustinegrass, bermudagrass with slow-release nitrogen. Water newly seeded or plugged lawns regularly. Mow regularly to recommended height.**

JUNE

Dethatch, if thatch is more than 1/2" thick. Last chance to renovate or install a warm season lawn. Apply 1" water per rainless week, or as per restrictions. *Fertilize St. Augustinegrass, centipedegrass, carpetgrass, bermudagrass & zoysiagrass. Mow regularly. Watch for/treat mole crickets.

JULY

Apply 1" water per rainless week, or as per restrictions. *Fertilize St. Augustinegrass,

GRASSES

bermudagrass. Mow regularly; raise mower height 1-2 notches. Watch for and treat for mole crickets.

AUGUST

*Fertilize (see June). Mow regularly; remove no more than 1/3 grass height. If lawn is wilted, or torn up by animals, it can become grub infested. Cut and roll back several square-foot sections of turf. If more than 7 white grubs are found in each, apply grub control. Only water areas that need it.

SEPTEMBER

If desired, overseed with ryegrass late in month for a green winter lawn. Bermuda tolerates overseeding best. Apply 1" water per rainless week, observing any watering restrictions. Don't lime carpetgrass or centipedegrass, unless called for by a soil test. Raise mower height 1/2".

OCTOBER

Overseed with ryegrass early Oct. Apply pre-emergent herbicide. Water as needed to prevent stress. Shred an compost falling leaves which can smother lawn.

NOVEMBER

Keep lawns free of falling leaves as they dormant. Can fertilize dormant, overseeded bermudagrass and zoysiagrass; mow 1-2.5"high. Dormant lawns may need occasional watering.

DECEMBER

Mow overseeded bermudagrass when less than 1.5". Hand pull or spot treat winter weeds. Overseeded bermudagrass can be fertilized. If not overseeding with rye, see December mower care notes on previous page.

Lawn Care Tips:

- Frequent fertilizing means more mowing, increased thatch, and possible groundwater pollution.
- Don't fertilize a wet or stressed lawn.
- Don't apply pre-emergents just prior to seeding, or if just seeded.
- Mow regularly and keep blades sharp.
- Consider a mulching mower (eliminates clippings, returns valuable nitrogen to soil).
- Change direction each time you mow, to prevent soil compaction.
- Water before sunrise to prevent diseases and evaporation (conserves water).
- Water deeply but less frequently to encourage better rooting. Overwatering can reduce nutrients and oxygen available to grass. Don't water daily, unless renovating, or starting a new lawn.
- Avoid weed-eating near young trees and shrubs. The line can damage bark. Instead, create mulch rings to suppress grass.
- To avoid injury from flying debris, keep family and pets away when mowing.

Water Saving Tips:

- Reduce slopes.
- Water before sunrise.
- Use a highly efficient irrigation system.
- Select drought tolerant turfgrass.
- Minimize fertilizer; don't apply in summer.
- Water so that water soaks into lawn; don't let run off.
- Add topdressing of organic material to conserve moisture
- Mow high



NURSERY & GARDEN CENTER

Rooted in Raleigh Since 1967