

Cool-Season Lawn Management Calendar

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See Extension Fact Sheet HLA-6420 for more details.

TALL FESCUE, KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS, PERENNIAL RYEGRASS MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Establish or Overseed	XX	XXXX	X						XX	XXX		
Mowing	2.5"	2.5"	2.5"	2.5"	2.5"	2.5-3"	2.5-3"	2.5-3"	2.5-3"	2.5"	2.5"	2.5"
Fertilization			F	F					F		F	
Rainfall or Watering Needs	1"/2wk	1"/2wk	1"/wk	1"/wk	2"/wk	2"/wk	2"/wk	2"/wk	2"/wk	1"/wk	1"/wk	1"/2wk
Weed Control - Preemergent		XXXX	X					X	X			
Weed Control - Postemergent		----Broadleaf----								---Broadleaf---		
White Grub Control				P	PP			CC	CC			
Aerification									X	XXX		

Note: X = Best time frame for indicated activity. Adjust based on uniqueness of each year and local needs.

Watering - Number equals projected water needed on a weekly basis if watering will be practiced. Try to reduce amount and frequency for water savings.

Mowing - Number listed is the cutting height for each mowing if using low to medium maintenance.

Fertilizing (F) - letter indicates optimum timing. Adjust the amount/timing on intended results.

White grub control - P = preventive insecticides; C = curative insecticides (see notes below).

CULTIVARS

Ninety percent tall fescue mixed with 10 percent Kentucky bluegrass is suggested. Perennial ryegrass is not suggested, but may be in some mixes. Use two or more improved tall fescues in the mix with one or more bluegrasses. Many good varieties are available.

ESTABLISHMENT

New Lawn - Seed at label directed rate.

Overseeding - Overseed at labeled rate or at ½ full "New Lawn" rate.

Best Time - Fall

Second Choice - Spring

MOWING

Mow at 2.5 - 3". Remove no more than 1/3 of the top growth at any one time. Recycle by removing the bagging attachment or use a mulching mower.

WATERING

Keep soil moist during establishment. When mature, moisten to 4 - 6 inches soil depth. Water mature grass when footprint impressions remain after walking over lawn. Adjust watering based on the needs of the lawn and rainfall that occurs and not a set schedule.

FERTILIZING

- Soil test every three years.
- Apply up to 1 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in late February or early March, either late April or very early May, late September, and mid to late November.
- Avoid fertilizing during the summer (June through August).

Pest Management - Scout lawns frequently. Identify pests. Use improved varieties. Adjust management practices. Record history of pest problems. Use pesticides only if needed. Read & follow label directions!

WEED CONTROL

Preemergent Grass Control – (pick only 1, products with “***” are best), remember do not apply prior to seeding or laying sod). A second application may be needed, see labels for details.

bensulide (BETASAN[®], SCOTT’S WEEDGRASS PREVENTER[®])

dithiopyr** (DIMENSION[®]) – preemergent activity

pendamethalin** (SCOTT’S HALTS[®] and many others)

prodiamine** (BARRICADE[®]) – on fertilizer particle

oryzalin** (SURFLAN[®])- if Kentucky bluegrass is present, consider another herbicide

oryzalin + benefin (XL 2G[®]***, AMAZE[®]) - if Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass are present consider another herbicide

siduron (TUPERSAN[®]) - use only if seeding in spring and in fescue, bluegrass or ryegrass only. TUPERSAN[®] is weak but is the only preemergent herbicide that can be used at seeding time on cool-season turfgrass.

Preemergent Broadleaf Control -

isoxaben (GALLERY[®], PORTRAIT[®], ISOXABEN)

Postemergent Broadleaf Control -

WEED-B-GON[®], TRIMEC[®], Bayer Lawn Weed & Crabgrass Killer[®], Spectracide Weed Stop For Lawns[®] or Ortho Weed-B-Gone Max plus Crabgrass Control[®].

Postemergent Nutsedge Control -

halosulfuron-methyl (SEDGEHAMMER[®]) – for yellow or purple nutsedge. bentazon (BASAGRAN[®]) - yellow nutsedge.

Grass Killer for Edging – (do not use these over the lawn)

glyphosate (ROUNDUP[®], ROUNDUP PRO[®], RANGER PRO[®], HONCHO PLUS[®], KILLZALL[®], and many more)

glufosinate-ammonium (FINALE[®])

fluazifop-P-butyl (GRASS-B-GON[®], OVER-THE-TOP GRASS KILLER[®])

sethoxydim (SEGMENT[®], ferti-lome[®] OVER-THE-TOP II GRASS KILLER, Grass Getter[®]) – for tall fescue control, not ryegrass or bluegrass control

WHITE GRUB CONTROL

Preventive (P): Products containing imidacloprid (Merit[®], Bayer Advanced Seasonlong Grub Control[®]), clothianidin (Arena[®], Green Light Grub Control with Arena[®]), chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn[®], Scott’s GrubEx[®]), or halofenozide (Natural Guard Grub Control, Spectracide[®] Grub StopTM). Apply preventative products in late April to mid-May, but only in areas with repeated history of grub problems. **Curative (C):** Products containing trichlorfon (Dylox[®], Bayer AdvancedTM 24 Hour Grub Killer), or clothianidin (Arena[®], Green Light Grub Control with Arena[®]) where grubs are known to be a current problem and found to be present. Apply in mid-August through mid-September. Irrigate after application to activate the product. Not all lawns need white grub control applications.

The pesticide information presented in this publication was current with federal and state regulations at the time of printing. The user is responsible for determining that the intended use is consistent with the label of the product being used. Use pesticides safely. Read and follow label directions. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

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