
Lawn Calendar for [Cool-Season Grasses](#)

The following suggestions are for cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass or tall fescue. Zoysiagrass, bermudagrass and buffalograss are warm-season grasses and require a different maintenance regime. A warm-season grass calendar is on the following page.



February/March

Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

April

Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom (usually in April). Preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. Remember that a good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention and may be all that is needed.

May

Fertilize with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn or if you receive enough rainfall that your turf normally doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes a weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness of the weed killer, but the fertilizer needs to be watered in. If you are using a product that has both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours before watering it in.

June through Mid-July

Apply second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15 – unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (proflumicarb) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water it in. If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing "Merit" or "Mach 2" during the first half of July. This works to prevent grub damage. It must be watered in before it becomes active.

Late-July through August

If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. Merit and Mach 2 are effective against young grubs and may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours or effectiveness drops.

September

Fertilize around Labor Day. [This is the most important fertilization of the year.](#) Water in fertilizer.

November

Fertilize. This fertilizer is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. **Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring.** Spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use label rates for all products!

Lawn Calendar for **Warm-Season** Grasses

Warm-season grasses include bermudagrass, zoysiagrass and buffalograss.

March

Spot treat broadleaf weeds if necessary. Treat on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours of application will reduce effectiveness.

Did you know?

A buffalograss or bermudagrass lawn requires half as much or less water than a bluegrass or tall fescue lawn.

April

Apply crabgrass preventer between April 1 and April 15, or apply preventer when the eastern redbud is in full bloom. If using a product with Barricade, apply two weeks earlier. Crabgrass preventers need to be watered in before they will start to work

May – August 15

Fertilize with 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. Remember, more applications will give a deeper green color, but will increase mowing and lead to a buildup of thatch with bermudagrass and zoysiagrass.

Bermudagrass – Use two to four applications.

Zoysiagrass --- Use one to two applications. Too much nitrogen leads to thatch buildup.

Buffalograss – Use one to two applications.

One Application: Apply in June

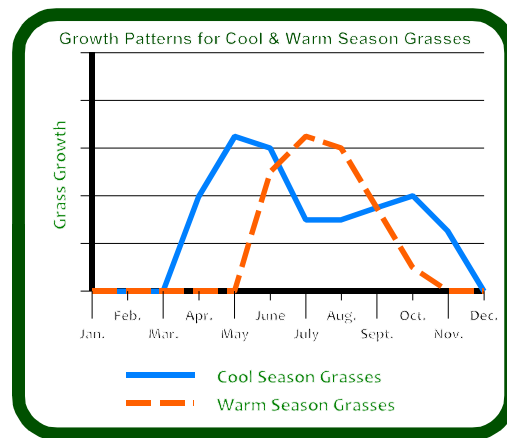
Two Applications: Apply May and July.

Three Applications: Apply May, June and early August

Four Applications: Apply May, June, July and early August

June

If grubs have been a problem in the past, apply a product containing Merit or Mach 2. Either product should be applied by mid July. Merit can be applied as early as mid May if there are problems with billbugs or May beetle grubs. Both of these are referred to as grub preventers. Actually, they kill the grubs when they are small but are called grub preventers because they kill the grubs before they cause damage. These insecticides are effective and safe. They must be watered in before they become active. June is a good time to core aerate a warm-season lawn. Core aeration will help alleviate compaction, increase the rate of water infiltration, improve soil air exchange and help control thatch.



Late-July through August

If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer. If Merit or Mach 2 has been applied, this should not be necessary. Grub killers must be watered in immediately.

Late October

Spray for broadleaf weeds if they are a problem. Treat on a day that is at least 50 degrees F. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours reduces effectiveness. Use the rates listed on the label for all products mentioned.