

Warm Season Turf Care Calendar

January – February (Dormant)

Tasks: Keep lawn free of leaves and debris. Avoid heavy foot traffic.

March (Pre-Emergent for Spring Weeds)

Tasks: Apply pre-emergent herbicide when soil temps reach 55°F (early March in NC) to prevent crabgrass and summer weeds.

Products:

Scotts Halts Crabgrass & Grassy Weed Preventer, Spectracide Weed Stop with Crabgrass Preventer

April – May (Green-Up & First Feeding)

Tasks: Once Bermuda is 50% green, apply slow-release nitrogen fertilizer; spot-spray weeds.

Products:

Scotts Turf Builder Southern Lawn Food, Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns (liquid)

June (Active Growth + Aeration)

Tasks: Core Aeration: Aerate Bermuda lawns in early summer for better water and nutrient absorption.

Apply fertilizer after aeration.

Products:

Lesco Bermuda Lawn Fertilizer (29-0-5)

Aeration tools available for rent at Home Depot or Lowe's.

July (Feed & Weed)

Tasks: Continue mowing (1–1.5 in.), fertilize if 6 weeks since last feeding, and spot-spray weeds.

August (Last Fertilization)

Tasks: Apply final fertilizer application by mid-August; continue mowing and watering.

September (Fall Pre-Emergent)

Tasks: Apply fall pre-emergent for winter weeds like poa annua.

Products:

Scotts Halts Crabgrass Preventer, Hi-Yield Weed & Grass Stopper (Dimension)

October – December (Dormant Care)

Tasks: Stop fertilizing; remove leaves

Common Weeds in Warm Season Grasses



Crabgrass

Type: Summer annual grassy weed

When It Appears: Spring through summer

Control:

Pre-emergent: Apply in early spring when soil temps reach 55°F

Product: Scotts Halts Crabgrass & Grassy Weed Preventer

Post-emergent: Apply during active growth

Product: Ortho Weed B Gon + Crabgrass Control (with Quinclorac)



Poa Annua (Annual Bluegrass)

Type: Winter annual grassy weed

When It Appears: Fall through spring

Control:

Pre-emergent: Apply in early fall

Product: Hi-Yield Weed & Grass Stopper (Dimension)



Nutsedge (Yellow or Purple)

Type: Perennial sedge

When It Appears: Late spring through summer

Control:

Selective Post-emergent: Use sedge-specific herbicide

Product: Ortho Nutsedge Killer (Active ingredient: Sulfentrazone)



Clover

Type: Cool-season broadleaf weed

When It Appears: Spring and fall

Control:

Selective Herbicide:

Product: Spectracide Weed Stop for Lawns (Trimec blend: 2,4-D, Dicamba)

Tip: Maintain proper nitrogen fertility—clover thrives in low-nitrogen soils

Kate's Native Picks

Wild Indigo (*Baptisia* spp)

Growth Habit: Clump-forming perennial, 3–4 feet tall with deep taproots; drought-tolerant once established.

Bloom Time: Late spring to early summer with showy pea-like flowers in blue, purple, or yellow.

Why is this a good choice: Thrives in poor soils and full sun, making it low-maintenance and great for pollinators.



Amsonia (*Amsonia hubrichtii*)

Growth Habit: Upright perennial, 2–3 feet tall, with fine-textured foliage that turns golden in fall.

Bloom Time: Late spring with clusters of soft blue star-shaped flowers.

Why is this a good choice: Tolerates clay soils and heat; adds multi-season interest and deer resistance.

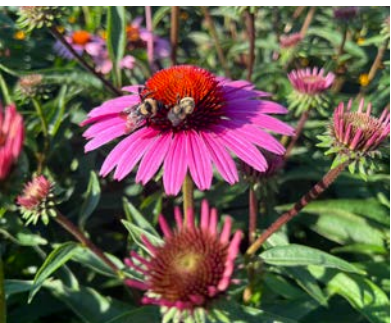


Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* spp)

Growth Habit: Clump-forming perennial, 2–4 feet tall, with sturdy stems and daisy-like blooms.

Bloom Time: Summer through early fall; flowers attract pollinators and birds.

Why is this a good choice: Heat- and drought-tolerant, perfect for low-maintenance, colorful landscapes



Hypericum (*Hypericum frondosum*)

Growth Habit: Compact deciduous shrub, about 3 feet tall, with dense foliage.

Bloom Time: Early to mid-summer with bright yellow flowers.

Why is this a good choice: Tough and adaptable; excellent for erosion control and sunny borders.

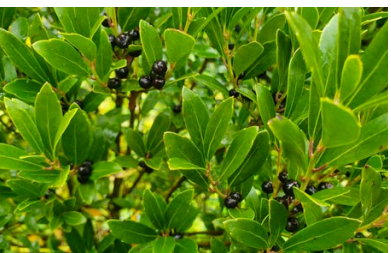


Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)

Growth Habit: Evergreen shrub, 3–8 feet tall, forming dense, rounded masses.

Bloom Time: Small white flowers in late spring, followed by black berries in fall.

Why is this a good choice: Great alternative to boxwood; thrives in wet soils and offers winter interest.





Liatris (*Liatris* spp)

Growth Habit: Upright perennial with tall spikes of blooms, 2–4 feet high.

Bloom Time: Mid- to late summer, producing purple flower spikes from top to bottom.

Why is this a good choice: Attracts butterflies, tolerates poor soils, and thrives in full sun.



Ironweed (*Vernonia lettermannii*)

Growth Habit: Clumping perennial, 3–4 feet tall, with fine foliage.

Bloom Time: Late summer to early fall, covered in bright purple flowers.

Why is this a good choice: Great for late-season pollinators and thrives in moist to average soils.



Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* spp)

Growth Habit: Easy-growing perennial or biennial, 2–4 feet tall, forming large clumps.

Bloom Time: Summer to early fall with golden daisy-like flowers and dark centers.

Why is this a good choice: Excellent for sunny spots, tolerates heat, and attracts pollinators.



Sweet Betsy (*Calycanthus*)

Growth Habit: Deciduous shrub, 6–12 feet tall, with aromatic leaves and stems.

Bloom Time: Spring to early summer with unique maroon, fragrant flowers.

Why is this a good choice: Native shrub that thrives in part shade and provides wildlife habitat.



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Growth Habit: Clump-forming ornamental grass, 2–4 feet tall, with upright blue-green blades.

Bloom Time: Late summer with fluffy seed heads, stunning red-orange fall color.

Why is this a good choice: Tolerates drought and poor soils; adds texture and color year-round.

Ideas for the areas between homes

Shade-Loving Groundcover Garden

Instead of turf that struggles in wet shade, use low-maintenance groundcovers like:

- Ferns (e.g., Christmas fern, autumn fern)
- Hostas (great for foliage color)
- Ajuga (spreads well and tolerates moisture)
- Liriope (variegated for interest)

This creates a lush, green corridor that looks intentional.



. Rain Garden / Bioswale

Turn the problem into a feature by creating a rain garden: Incorporate moisture-loving plants like Iris, Sweetspire (Itea), or Cardinal Flower.

Add decorative stone or river rock channels for drainage control. This helps prevent standing water while adding beauty and ecological value.



Permeable Pathway with Planting Beds

Install a flagstone or gravel path between the homes so it stays usable, with planting beds on each side:

Use shade-tolerant shrubs like Oakleaf Hydrangea, Clethra (Summersweet), or dwarf varieties for tight spaces.

Add mulch or stone to control moisture and prevent mud.



Decorative Drainage Feature

Turn drainage into an aesthetic element:

A dry creek bed with decorative rocks

Accent plants like Japanese Forest Grass or Carex around the edges



Fall Armyworm Blog



**The Benefits of Native Plants
in Your Landscape**



Artillery Fungus Blog



**Xeriscaping Ideas for Water-
Efficient Landscapes**



**Why Choose Local
Nurseries for Your Plants**



**NC Invasive Plants List is
maintained by NC-IPC**

