

St. Augustinegrass Home Lawn Maintenance Calendar

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This calendar serves as a general guide and practices may vary depending on environmental conditions

Warm-season growth calendar

	Spring		Summer				Fall					
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Establishment	The best time to establish warm-season grass is during active growth periods.											
Mowing	Mow, if necessary, to prevent winter annual weeds from flowering.		Mow at 2 to 4" weekly, or as frequently as necessary to prevent scalping. Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf tissue at one time.								Mow, if necessary, to prevent winter annual weeds from flowering.	
Fertilization			Make the first fertilizer application when the lawn is actively growing and has been mowed at least two times.		Apply 0.5 to 1 lb. of nitrogen/1000 ft ² 1 to 4 times during the growing season with a combination of quick- and slow-release fertilizer. Do not exceed 4 lbs N/1000 ft ² per year. Do not apply fertilizer to a stressed grass. Make the last application of nitrogen 4 to 6 weeks before the first historic frost. Apply other nutrients based on soil test results.						Depending on the part of the state, fertilizer may be continued to be applied. Make the last application of nitrogen 4 to 6 weeks before the first historic frost.	
Aerification			Aerate to relieve soil compaction, especially in new lawns with limited organic matter or in lawns that are moderately or heavily used. Aeration is best performed when there is adequate soil moisture.									
Thatch removal			Remove problematic thatch using hollow-tine aerification, a vertical mower, or a power rake. Thatch at 0.5 to 1" depth can begin to impede water infiltration and harbor disease and insects.									
Weed Control	Apply pre-emergence herbicides when soil temperatures reach approximately 55°F for 4 to 5 consecutive days for the prevention of summer annual weeds (i.e., crabgrass, goosegrass).		Apply post-emergence herbicides as needed for summer annual and perennial weeds. ¹				Apply pre-emergence herbicides when soil temperatures reach approximately 70°F for 4 to 5 consecutive days for the prevention of select winter annual weeds (i.e., annual bluegrass, henbit, rescuegrass).		Apply post-emergence herbicides as needed for the control of winter annual and perennial weeds.			
Irrigation	Turn off irrigation during winter months when turfgrass is not actively growing.		Complete the "Water-Wise Checklist" before turning irrigation on for the spring and summer.		Irrigate only when necessary to prevent wilting or to replace at least 60% of evapotranspiration. Do not irrigate during rainy periods or early spring and late fall when natural rainfall is more likely to meet the lawn's needs.						Turn off irrigation during winter months when turfgrass is not actively growing.	
Insect Control					Apply preventative white grub products, if necessary.		Apply curative or rescue insecticide for white grubs, if necessary. Scout for fall armyworms.					
					Scout for chinch bugs and apply insecticide, if necessary.							
Disease Control					Scout for take-all root rot and gray leaf spot.							
					Apply preventative fungicide products for large patch disease (<i>Rhizoctonia solani</i>) in areas with a history of disease development when soil temperatures are between 50–70°F.							

¹Visit aggieturf.tamu.edu for more information on weed identification and control in turfgrass lawns.