Maintenance Calendar for Cool-Season Turfgrasses in Virginia¹

Authored by; Mike Goatley, Shawn Askew, David McCall, Virginia Tech; and Chantel Wilson, 4H Steam Specialist, Virginia State University

Maintenance activity ²	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seeding ³ (Initial establishment and/ or renovation)			•••••		•••••			XXXXXXXXX				
N Fertilization ⁴			•••••	••••••	•••••			XXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
PRE herbicides⁵			XXXXXXXX				XXX	XXXX				
POST herbicides ⁶			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
Cultivation/ dethatching			•••••						XXXXXXXX			

¹Predominant cool-season turfgrasses for Virginia lawns are Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and fine-leaf fescues.

² Preferred timing for maintenance activity is indicated by an upper case 'X'. Second best timing indicated by a '•'.

³Recommended seeding rates per 1000 sq ft are 2-3 lbs for Kentucky bluegrass; 4-6 pounds for tall fescue; 3-5 pounds for perennial ryegrass; 3-5 pounds for fine-leaf fescues. Sod is also available for most of these grasses. Consult Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) publication 426-718 *Establishing Lawns* for more information.

⁴ Levels of 0.5-1 lb water soluble N/1000 sq ft every 3-4 weeks are recommended during the preferred timing period of fall. Levels of 0.25-0.5 lb water soluble N/1000 sq ft every 4-8 weeks are recommended for second best timing periods. Controlled release N sources (those containing \geq 50% water insoluble N) can be applied at 1.5 to 2x recommended N levels on approximately 6-8 week intervals. Apply other nutrients and/or lime based on soil test results. Note: it is recommended to test homelawn soils every 3-4 years.

⁵ Spring preemergent (PRE) herbicide applications are primarily targeting summer annual weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass, or foxtails. Fall applications are primarily targeting annual bluegrass and winter annual broadleaves such as henbit, deadnettle, chickweed, and geranium. Before applying any PRE herbicide consider possible effects it will have on seeding desirable turfgrasses in the future.

⁶Weeds must be actively growing to achieve control with postemergence (POST) herbicides. For cool-season weeds, treat when temperatures are $\geq 50^{\circ}$ F. For warm-season weeds, temperatures $\geq 80^{\circ}$ F are required for maximum control. Proper identification of the weed is critical in selecting appropriate control strategies. Consult your area horticultural agent or other VCE resources (such as www.turfweeds.net) for assistance in weed or grass identification. For chemical recommendations, refer to the *Pest Management Guide: Home Grounds and Animals*, Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 456-018 (w).



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