

## Calendar Of Events In Lawn Care For Bluegrass/Fescue Lawns In The Mid-Atlantic Region

Best Times Are In Bold Type; Next Best Are In Outlined Type

Activity/Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fertilizing <sup>1</sup>					✓	✓ ✓		✓	✓✓	✓✓		✓
Seeding		✓	✓						✓	✓✓		
Sodding <sup>2</sup>		✓	✓						✓	✓✓		
Liming <sup>3</sup>			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Insect Control <sup>4</sup>				✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓		
Disease Control <sup>5</sup>				✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓		
Broadleaf Weed Control			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓				✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	
Preemergent Weed Control <sup>6</sup>		✓✓	✓✓✓									
Dethatching <sup>7</sup>									✓✓✓	✓✓		
Aerification <sup>7</sup>				✓	✓✓				✓✓✓	✓✓		
Water Management <sup>8</sup>					✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓		

- 1 Use slow release nitrogen ("WIN"); except in December, use readily available nitrogen.
- 2 Sod can be successfully installed anytime the ground is not frozen and water can be supplied regularly.
- 3 Lime can be applied anytime the ground is not frozen; apply only 50 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. at a time to a lawn.
- 4 Proper identification of pests is essential to gaining control!

- 5 Disease control usually requires protection over a period of time; it is prophylactic... rarely can you “cure” a plant disease.
- 6 Best timing is when forsythia is flowering; may require a second application at 1/2 rate 90 days later, depending on product.
- 7 Can be done in the fall in conjunction with over seeding.
- 8 Watering any plant should be done thoroughly and infrequently. That is, let the plant dry out before watering again, and then give it a good soaking. For turfgrass, an inch of water per week is plenty. You can put a tuna fish can out, and when it is full of water from the sprinkler, you have put down about an inch. An exception is if you are starting new seed; in that case, a light sprinkling two or three times a day until the grass germinates is helpful. After germination takes place, you cannot let the new seedlings wilt, so you have to pay close attention to their condition and monitor the rainfall. Once established, water thoroughly and infrequently.

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The numbers on a bag of fertilizer are the percentages of nitrogen, phosphate, and potash in the bag, and are referred to as the fertilizer "analysis". So, if you buy 50 lbs. of 20-5-3, you get 10 lbs. of actual nitrogen, 2.5 lbs. of phosphate, and 1.5 lbs. of potash. Usually the application rate is based on the nitrogen content, so if you have a lawn area of 10,000 sq. ft. (which is a little less than 1/4 acre) and you want to apply 2 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft., you need to buy 20 lbs. of actual nitrogen, or 100 lbs. of 20-5-3. You would get the same amount of nitrogen if you bought 200 lbs. of 10-10-10, or 400 lbs. of 5-10-10. In the later two examples, you would get much more phosphorus and potassium as well. A slow release nitrogen fertilizer should have at least 50% of its nitrogen in a water insoluble form and will be labeled "50% WIN". With slow release nitrogen there is less chance of plant injury or pollution. Natural organic (those derived from plant or animal origins) types of fertilizer are slow release and also add organic matter to the soil, which is beneficial.