Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Publication 430-523

Maintenance Calendar for Cool-Season Turfgrass Lawns in Virginia[z]

Mike Goatley, Extension specialist, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech
Shawn Askew, Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science, Virginia Tech
Derik Cataldi and Chantel Wilson, Virginia Deptartment of Conservation and Recreation

Maintenance activity[y]	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seeding[x] (Initial establishment and/or renovation)			xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					XXXXXXXXXXXXX				
N Fertilization[w]			xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXxxxxx				
PRE herbicides[v]			XXXXXXXXXX					XXXXXXXXX				
POST herbicides[u]			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
Cultivation/dethatching			xxxxxxxxxxx						XXXXXXXXXXXXX			

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

[y] Preferred timing for maintenance activity is indicated by an upper case 'X'. Second best timing indicated by lower case 'x'.

[x] Recommended 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 and while these are preferred planting times, sod can be established year round as long as soils are not frozen and supplemental irrigation is available when necessary. Consult additional Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) publications at http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/lawns.html for more information.

[w] Applications of no more than 0.7 lb of readily available (i.e. water soluble) nitrogen /1000 sq ft per active growing month are recommend-ed during the preferred timing of fall. Use levels of 0.25-0.5 lb readily available N/1000 sq ft per growing month during secondary growing periods and never apply fertilizer to frozen soils. Consider the use of slowly available nitrogen (SAN) sources (those containing ≥ 15% water insoluble N) whenever possible (application levels of up to 0.9 lb SAN/ 1000 sq ft per active growing month) and apply other nutri-ents and/or lime based on soil test results. Note: it is recommended to test homelawn soils every 3-4 years.

[v] 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 gerani-um. Before applying any PRE herbicide consider possible effects it will have on seeding desirable turfgrasses in the future.

[u] Weeds must be actively growing to achieve control with postemergence (POST) herbicides. For cool-season weeds, treat when tempera-tures are ≥ 50˚ F. For warm-season weeds, temperatures ≥ 80˚ F are required for maximum control. Proper identification of the weed is critical in selecting appropriate control strategies. Consult VCE resources for assistance in weed identification. For chemical recommenda-tions, refer to the "Home Grounds and Animals" Pest Management Guide by VCE (www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/).

www.ext.vt.edu

Produced by Communications and Marketing, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Tech, 2015

VT/0116/430-523/CSES-153NP