

Maintenance Calendar for Cool-Season Turfgrasses in Virginia¹

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Maintenance activity ²	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seeding ³ (Initial establishment and/or renovation)							XXXXXXXXXX				
N Fertilization ⁴							XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.....				
PRE herbicides ⁵			XXXXXXXX					XXXXXXX				
POST herbicides ⁶			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
Cultivation/dethatching								XXXXXXXXXX			

¹ Predominant 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 '•'.

³ Recommended seeding rates per 1000 sq ft are 2-3 lbs for Kentucky bluegrass; 6-8 pounds for tall fescue; 4-6 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 Up to 0.7 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 ≥ 15% water insoluble N) can be applied up to 0.9 lb per 1000 sq ft per active growing month. 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.

⁶ Weeds must be actively growing to achieve control with postemergence (POST) herbicides. For cool-season weeds, treat when temperatures 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 your area horticultural agent or other VCE resources (such as <https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/>) 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](https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018) (<https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018>).