

Maintenance Calendar for Warm-Season Turfgrasses in Virginia¹

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Maintenance activity ²	Month													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
Planting³ (Initial establishment and/ or renovation)					XXXXXXXXXXXX.....									
N Fertilization⁴					XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.....									
PRE herbicides⁵			XXXXXXX					XXXXXXX						
POST herbicides⁶		XX										
Winter overseeding⁷								XXXXXXX						
Cultivation/dethatching					XXXXXXX.....									

¹ Warm-season turfgrasses grown in Virginia are primarily bermudagrass and zoysiagrass, with St. Augustinegrass and centipedegrass included in the Tidewater region.

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

³ Cultivars vary in establishment methods. Several improved bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass cultivars can be established by vegetative means (sod, sprigs, or plugs) only. Recommended seeding rates per 1000 sq ft: 1 to 1.5 lbs for bermudagrass or zoysiagrass; 0.25-0.5 lbs for centipedegrass. If plugging, bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass plugs should be planted on a maximum spacing of 12", while zoysiagrass should be plugged at 6" spacing. Consult Virginia Cooperative Extension publication 426-178, *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 late spring through summer. Levels of 0.25-0.5 lb water soluble N/1000 sq ft at 4-8 weeks intervals are recommended for second best timing periods. Controlled release N sources (those containing ≥ 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 home lawn 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 broad-leaves 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, whether they be spring/summer plantings of seeded grasses or fall plantings of ryegrass for winter overseeding. If turf is not overseeded, there is potential for winter weed control with non-selective POST (postemergent) herbicides during winter dormancy of the warm-season turfgrass.

⁶ Weeds must be actively growing to achieve desirable control with 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 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 (www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/).

⁷ Ryegrass (annual or perennial) can be overseeded at rates of 5-10 pounds of pure live seed/1000 sq ft in order to have a green, actively growing winter turf. However, warm-season turf performance in the late spring of the following year will be compromised because of competition with the cool-season turf.

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