

Kentucky Bluegrass Lawn Calendar

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Mowing

March 20 to April 10	Clean lawn of debris (i.e. rocks, sticks, etc.). Mow lawn as short as possible and remove clipping debris.
April 10 to June 15	Mow lawn at 2.0 inches. Mowing frequency should be dictated by growth rate, never removing more than one-third the mowing height at any mowing.
June 15 to August 30	Raise mowing height to 2.5 inches.
September 1 to October 15	Lower mowing height to 2.0 inches.
October 15 to November 15 (or last mowing)	Lower mowing height to 1.5 - 1.75 inches.
<i>Alternative and Preferred Mowing Schedule:</i> March 29 to last mowing	Maintain 2.5-3.5 inch mowing height throughout season to promote rooting and stress tolerance.

Fertilizing

April 20 to May 10	Fertilize with 1.0 lb of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizer carriers are preferred.
June 11 to July 1	Fertilize with .5-1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
July to August	Avoid fertilizing.
September 1 to September 15	Fertilize with 1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizer carriers are preferred.
October 15 to November 15	Fertilize with about 1.5 to 2.0 lbs. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Phosphorus and potassium can be applied with fall fertilizer formulations.

Watering

April to November	Water as needed to prevent wilting and drought. About 1.0 inch of water is needed per week in spring and fall, and 1.5 inches per week in summer. Deep water every two to three days. Avoid daily, light watering.
<i>Alternative Watering Schedule:</i> (do not use if lawn receives excessive traffic)	For water conservation allow turf to go dormant. Irrigate only if sustained drought occurs (more than 3 weeks without rain). Lawn will green up with sufficient rainfall in the late summer/early fall.

Herbicides

April 20 to May 5	Apply preemergence herbicides for crabgrass, goosegrass and foxtail control.
May 1 to May 20	Control dandelion and winter annual broadleaf weeds if they are a problem.
May 25 to June 20	Apply second preemergence herbicide application (i.e., six weeks after initial application) to areas where spotted spurge has been a problem, areas with a history of severe crabgrass infestations, or presence of grassy sandbur.
September 15 to October 31	Apply perennial broadleaf weed control. This is the <i>preferred</i> time for controlling dandelion and clover.

Insect Control

May 10 to May 20	Control adult billbug, particularly on lawns with a history of injury.
June 15 to June 30	Check for sod webworm larvae and control if necessary. Apply preventative grub control products.
July 15 to August 15	Check for sod webworm larvae and control if necessary.
August 1 to September 30	Check for white grubs and control if necessary.

Disease Control

April 10 to June 15 and September 15 to October 15	Control leafspot on common Kentucky bluegrass lawns. Apply according to label directions.
May 30 to July 30	Apply preventive summer patch control on lawns that have had this problem in the past.
August 15 to October 15	Leaf and stem rust may be a problem on susceptible cultivars.

Thatch Removal

April 1 to April 30 and/or September 1 to September 30	Power rake or aerate if thatch layer exceeds 0.5 inch. Apply leafspot fungicide control to common Kentucky bluegrass lawns after power raking.
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Aerification

April 1 to April 30 and/or September 1 to October 15	Aerify lawns that are on clay soil to alleviate compaction, improve rooting and increase irrigation efficiency.
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Overseeding

April 1 to April 30 and/or September 1 to October 15	Overseed thin Kentucky bluegrass lawns with improved cultivars at .75 to 1.0 lb. seed per 1,000 sq. ft.
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