



# Tall fescue lawn calendar

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Turfgrass Science Program | turf.unl.edu Pub. Turf 2012h

| Dates                   | Fertilization               | Cultural practices                       | Pest control   | Notes  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Apr.                    |                             | Begin mowing as needed                   |  | Mow at 3.0 to 3.5 inches as needed to avoid removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. Mow at this height throughout the year. Tall fescue grows aggressively in the spring, so mowing may be needed every 4 to 5 days. |
| Apr. 15-<br>May 1       | 0.75-1.0 lb<br>N/1000 sq ft |  | Apply preemergence herbicide for crabgrass control       | Most preemergence herbicides are only available with N as the carrier. Try to limit N rate to 0.75 lbs N/1000 sq ft and use products containing 25 to 50% slow release N*.   |
| May 1 –<br>June 1       | 0.75-1.0 lb<br>N/1000 sq ft |  |  | Apply nitrogen only if not applied earlier in the spring, and use products containing 25 to 50% slow release N*.   |
| June<br>through<br>Sep. |                             | Irrigate to prevent drought stress       |  | Tall fescue is deep-rooted so likely will not require frequent irrigation if at all during the summer. However, tall fescue has poor drought survival so water enough to prevent dormancy during extended droughts.    |
| July-<br>August         |                             |  | Treat for brown patch if damage is seen                  | Brown patch is common on tall fescue lawns, especially when fertilized with more than 2.5 to 3.0 lbs N/1000 sq ft/yr.  |
| July-Aug.               |                             |  | Treat for white grubs if history dictates                | White grubs rarely cause damage in tall fescue, but consider an application if the lawn has a history of grub damage and/or animal feeding damage  |
| Sep. 1-15               | 0.75-1.0 lb<br>N/1000 sq ft |  |  | Use products containing 25 to 50% slow release N*. Phosphorus and/or potassium can be applied now if soil tests dictate.   |
| Sep. 15-<br>Oct 15      |                             | Aerification                             |  | Use hollow tines for maximum reduction in compaction. Could be combined with overseeding with a blend of tall fescue if turf is thinned from summer.   |
| Sep. 15-<br>Oct 15      |                             |  | Apply postemergence herbicide for broadleaf weed control | Fall is ideal time to control broadleaf weeds. Second best time is in the spring at or shortly after flowering of dandelions.  |
| Oct 15-<br>Nov 1        | 0.75-1.0 lb<br>N/1000 sq ft |  |  | Apply nitrogen near the last mowing and use products containing no slow release N.   |
| Oct 15-<br>Nov 1        |                             | Continue mowing until lawn stops growing |  | Continue mowing at 3.0 to 3.5 inches until lawn stops growing  |

\*% slow release N = total % of slow release forms listed on the label ÷ % of total N.

## Other sources for more information from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

Fertilizing home lawns: <http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/HomeLawnFertilization2012f.pdf>

Soil testing for turf areas: <http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/SoilTesting2012g.pdf>

Irrigating home lawns: <http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/homelawnirrigation2011a.pdf>

Broadleaf weed control in home lawns: <http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/BDLVcontrol2011b.pdf>

Crabgrass control in home lawns: <http://turf.unl.edu/pdfcaextpub/Crabgrasscontrolhomelawn2010b.pdf>

Brown patch disease of turf: <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/eublic/live/g1909/build/g1909.pdf>

White grubs in turf: <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/eublic/live/g1619/build/g1619.pdf>

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