



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- May 1	0.75-1.0 lb 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 – June 1	0.75-1.0 lb 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 through 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- 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 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- 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- 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- Nov 1	0.75-1.0 lb N/1000 sq ft			Apply nitrogen near the last mowing and use products containing no slow release N.
Oct 15- 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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