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LAWN MAINTENANCE CALENDAR - PENINSULA AREA Researched and Recommended Turf-Type Tall Fescue Varieties (Cool Season Grasses) Fescue Lawns

Date	Activity
August 15 – September 15	<p>FERTILIZE. Obtain a soil test every 3 or 4 years and use the recommendations in the most recent test report to determine the N-P-K rates for your lawn; e.g., 28-0-4 or 32-0-10. Apply 0.7 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLES:</u> 2.5 lbs. of a 28-0-4 per 1000 sq. ft. or 2.2 lbs. of a 32-0-10 per 1000 sq. ft.</p> <p>If over seeding, wait 2 weeks after fertilizing before over seeding.</p>
September 1 – October 1	<p>THATCH or AERATE</p> <p>THATCH. Fescue lawns generally do not require thatching, but when over seeding is required, thatching enables the seed to settle to the soil more effectively. A <u>follow-up mowing</u> at a cutting height of 2-2 1/2 inches is desirable to increase the amount of light reaching the base of the plants, which stimulates new tiller development and seed germination.</p> <p>AERATE. Use on compacted soils. Fescues are coming out of their summer dormancy and beginning vigorous growth, aeration can be used in conjunction with over seeding your fescue lawn.</p> <p>OVERSEED. Use 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. Many lawns do not need over seeding each year. Allow new grass time to grow and receive 2-3 cuttings before making further fertilizer applications. Note: Over seeding after Oct 15 is not recommended as the soil temperatures are not warm enough for germination of fescue seed.</p> <p>CUTTING HEIGHT: 3 inches or higher. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade when mowing. You stress the grass when you cut too much. Cut only when the lawn is dry.</p> <p>WATER. Apply so the amount is approximately 1 inch of water per week including rain. Water deeply but not that the water puddles at the surface.</p>

2020-2021 Recommended/Promising List of Turf Type Tall Fescues
Multiple Varieties – arranged alphabetically/quality of turf dependent on environment
 (Some varieties are not available locally)

4th Millennium SRP, AST 5112, AST 7002, AST 7003, AST 9002, AST 9003, Avenger II, Birmingham, Black Tail, Bloodhound, Bullseye, Catalyst, Crossfire, Fayette, Firebird 2, Firecracker SLS, Firewall, Gazelle II, Gold Medallion, Grande 3, Guardian 41, Hemi, Houndog 8, Hudson, Inferno, Integrity, Jaguar 4G, Justice, Leonardo, Lifeguard, Maestro, Michelangelo, Monument, Moondance, Moondance GLX, Mustang 4, Paramount, Penn RK4, Persuasion, Pro Gold, Rain Dance, Raptor III, Rebel IV & V, Rebel XLR, Rebounder, Reflection, Regenerate, Rendition RX, Rockwell, Rowdy, Saltillo, Screamer LS, Six Point, South Fork, Springwood, Spyder LS, SR8650, Standout, Summer, Sunset Gold, Supersonic, Technique, Temple, Thor, Titan RX, Titan Ultra, Titanium 2LS, Trinity, Turbo, Turbo RZ, Valkyrie LS, WATKINS, Wichita, Xtremegreen.

October	<p>FERTILIZE. Apply a fertilizer in sufficient amounts to provide 0.7 pounds of actual nitrogen.</p> <p><u>EXAMPLE:</u> 2.5 lbs. of a 28-0-4 per 1000 sq. ft. or 2.2 lbs. of a 32-0-10 per 1000 sq. ft.</p> <p>Allow at least 30 days from the first application of fertilizer until the second. As stated above, allow growing time for new grass before fertilizing. Thus, if overseeding is required, the first application of fertilizer should be applied in mid-August to allow 2-3 mowings prior to October application of fertilizer.</p>
October 15 – November 15	<p>WINTER WEED CONTROL. New grass should be mowed at least twice prior to herbicide treatment. Important to control chickweed, German moss, henbit, dandelion, buttercup, and many other annuals. Use combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCP). For general applications, use a hose end applicator or pressurized sprayer. Otherwise, spot spraying is more economical and safer for the environment. Do not use dicamba under the driplines of tender hardwoods (e.g., Dogwoods and Maples).</p>

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- November 1 - November 15 **FERTILIZE.** Apply 0.5 lb. actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. Allow thirty days between fertilizer applications.
- February 25 – March 15 **PRE-EMERGENT CRABGRASS CONTROL.** Use Pendimethalin, Benefin (Balan), Dithiopyr (Dimension), or DCPA (Dacthal). Avoid Siduron (Tupersan, Trey). Make the first application when forsythia is in the first week of bloom. (Approximately March 5-10) The second application is product dependent; read and follow the label carefully.
- OVERSEEDING.** * *Only if absolutely necessary* *. Not necessary every year. If desired, seed 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. This seeding will be a poor return on your investment. **CAUTION:** If you use a crabgrass pre-emergent, it will prevent the germination of any seed applied in the spring.
- March 15 – May 1 **FERTILIZER.** *Normally None.* Using fertilizer at this time over stimulates top growth, which lessens root reserves making plants less hardy for summer stress conditions ahead. Fertilizing is site-specific and if required should be at the 0.5 to 0.7 lbs. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- WEED CONTROL.** When mid-day temperatures reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit, apply the combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCP) to further control winter annual weeds and to control summer annual weeds such as lespedeza and plantains.
- WATERING.** Apply so the amount is approximately 1 inch of water per week including rain. Water deeply but not that the water puddles at the surface. Avoid frequent shallow watering. Water in early morning. Night watering encourages fungal development.
- May 25 – June 15 **FERTILIZE.** None
- CUTTING HEIGHT:** Minimum 3 inches. This keeps the soil surface cool, especially during hot dry weather.
- WATERING.** Apply so the amount is approximately 1 inch of water per week including rain. Water deeply but not that the water puddles at the surface. Avoid frequent shallow watering. Water in early morning. Night watering encourages fungal development.
- WEED CONTROL.** If necessary.
- DISEASE ALERT.** Observe turf frequently for disease outbreak. Act quickly with recommended fungicides; or apply fungicides to prevent initial attack. Call Extension Office for recommendations.
- July **NO FERTILIZER.** Honor the summer dormant period of cool season grasses.
- WATERING.** Apply so the amount is approximately 1 inch of water per week including rain. Water deeply but not that the water puddles at the surface. Avoid frequent shallow watering. Water in early morning. Night watering encourages fungal development.
- CUTTING HEIGHT:** 3 inches or higher.
- DISEASE ALERT.** Monitor. Act quickly.

Note: All the above are based on the assumptions that soil test report recommendations are being followed and a predominately quick-release nitrogen fertilizer is being used. Refer to publication CSES-135P for other fertilizer options.

Web Resources

Virginia Cooperative Extension-York/Poquoson Local website: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Virginia Cooperative Extension website: <https://york.ext.vt.edu>

Virginia Cooperative Extension lawn website: www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/lawns.html