



York-Poquoson Office 5338-I George Washington Mem. Hwy., PO Box 532, Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532 / 757.890.4940
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LAWN MAINTENANCE CALENDAR - PENINSULA AREA Researched and Recommended Bermuda and Zoysia Grasses (Warm Season Grasses) Bermuda and Zoysia Lawns

Date	Activity
October	OVERSEED Bermuda grass with annual ryegrass, if desired, at 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Zoysia grass does not lend itself to over-seeding.
November 15 –December 15	WINTER WEED CONTROL. Important to control chickweed, dandelion, henbit, buttercut, and many other annuals. Use combination of 2,4-D and Dicamba or Mecoprop. Read label closely for use on Zoysia grass.
February 15 – March 15	2ND ANNUAL WINTER WEED INSPECTION AND CONTROL, if necessary. 2, 4-D and Dicamba herbicide will control most broad leaf weeds.
March 1 – mid-March	PRE-EMERGENT CRABGRASS CONTROL. Use Pendimethalin, Benefin (Balan), Dithiopyr (Dimension), or DCPA (Dacthal). Products have advantages and disadvantages. Read label carefully. Avoid Siduron (Tupersan, Trey). Make the first application when forsythia is in the first week of bloom. The second application is product dependent; read and follow the label carefully.
April	FERTILIZE. Initiate Nitrogen (N) fertilization AFTER spring greening is complete. Obtain a soil test every 3 or 4 years and use the recommendations in the most recent report to determine the N-P-K rates for your lawn. April is an optional fertilization for Bermuda grass. Skip for Zoysia. See Publication CSES-135P for Factors Affecting Nutrient Management and amount of fertilizer to use. If you apply, fertilize in sufficient amount to provide 0.5 lb. of actual N (nitrogen) per 1000 sq. ft.

2020-2021 Recommended/Promising Bermuda grass Varieties

(Varieties with the notation # are only recommended in the warmer regions of Virginia)

Recommended/Promising vegetatively propagated Bermuda grass varieties: Celebration[#], Iron Cutter, Latitude 36, Northbridge⁴, Patriot, Premier Pro brand (variety name is Premier)⁴, Tahoma 31, TifTuf (DT-1), Tifway[#].

Recommended/Promising seeded Bermuda grass varieties: Arden 15, Monaco, Princess-77^{#3}, Rio, Riviera³, SWI-1070, Yukon³.

(Varieties marked with a superscript 3 are being considered for removal in 2021 due to the absence of recent testing of certified seed lots in MD and VA; those marked with a 4 are to be considered for removal due to lack of recent testing in MD and VA.)

2020-2021 Recommended Zoysiagrass Varieties

Vegetatively Propagated varieties: Meyer, Zeon

Seeded varieties: Zenith⁴

- May** **OVERSEEDING.** If needed, overseed a common Bermuda grass lawn with 1-2 lbs. of a recommended variety of Bermuda grass. Use hulled seed. (deadline - July 1). Soil preparation via dethatching or raking is necessary for seed establishment.
- FERTILIZE.** Apply equivalent of 0.7 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
- EXAMPLES: Table 1 in publication CSES-135P has amounts listed for various fertilizers.
- WATERING.** Begin deep watering every 7-10 days, if necessary. Bermuda and zoysia are drought tolerant species. Water when signs of stress are shown.
- CUTTING HEIGHT.** Approximately 1 inch throughout season.
- THATCH.** May 20 – June 15. (if needed) Very seldom a problem. Old grass clippings are not a sign of thatch.
- June **FERTILIZE.** Apply equivalent of 0.7 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Skip for Zoysia.
- July **FERTILIZE.** Apply equivalent of 0.7 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Optional for Zoysia grass. See Publication CSES-135P.
- July – August **WEED CONTROL.** Apply a combination of 2,4-D and Dicamba or Mecoprop by August 1 herbicide to control annual summer wide leaf weeds, if needed.
- WATERING.** Continue to deep water every 7-10 days, if weather necessitates. Avoid night watering – turf should dry off before night.
- DISEASE AND INSECT ALERT.** Diseases and insects are few with these species of grasses, but because of temperature and humidity, a disease could cause problems. Contact the Extension Office for problems in turf.
- August 5-15 **POA ANNA CONTROL (Annual Bluegrass).** This weed can cause problems in the lawn. It germinates in early fall and grows in the rosette form through the winter. It forms a seed head and grows by March. Use Balan in the fall before August 15 to develop a weed barrier to reduce the germination of Poa Anna.

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.

Web Resources

- Virginia Cooperative Extension-York/Poquoson Local website: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce
 Virginia Cooperative Extension website: <https://york.ext.vt.edu>
 Virginia Tech Turf website: www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/lawns.html

- Publication No.** **430-522 (CSES-152P) Maintenance Calendar for Warm-Season Lawns in Virginia**
426-718 Establishing Lawns
CSES-135P Lawn Fertilization in Virginia
425-125 Soil Test Box Kit (Extension Office ONLY)