# Cool-Season Lawn Care

by Dennis Martin, Justin Moss, Eric Rebek and David Hillock

--- 2012 --- See OSU Fact Sheet 6420 for more details

## TALL FESCUE-KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS-PERENNIAL RYEGRASS MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<td>Establish or Overseed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainfall or Watering</td>
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<td>2&quot;/wk</td>
<td>2&quot;/wk</td>
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<td>Weed Control - Preemergent</td>
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**Note:**
- X = Best time frame for indicated activity. Adjust based on uniqueness of each year and local needs.
- Watering - Number equals projected water needed on a weekly basis if watering will be practiced.
- Mowing - Number listed is the cutting height for each mowing if using low to medium maintenance.
- Fertilizing (F) – letter indicates optimum timing. Adjust the amount/timing on intended results.
- White grub control – P = preventive insecticides; C = curative insecticides (see notes below).

## CULTIVARS

90% tall fescue mixed with 10% Kentucky bluegrass is suggested. Perennial ryegrass is not suggested. Use 2 or more improved tall fescues in the mix with 1 or more bluegrasses. Many good varieties are available.

## ESTABLISHMENT

**New Lawn** - Seed at label directed rate.

**Overseeding** - Overseed at labeled rate or at ½ full “New Lawn” rate. Best Time - Fall Second Choice - Spring

## MOWING

Mow at 2.5 - 3". Remove no more than 1/3 of the top growth at any one time. Recycle by removing the lawn catcher or use a mulching mower.

## WATERING

Keep soil moist during establishment. When mature, moisten to 4 - 6 inches soil depth. Water mature grass when footprint impressions remain after walking over lawn. Adjust watering based on the needs of the lawn and rainfall that occurs and not a set schedule.

## FERTILIZING

- Soil test every 3 years.
- Apply 1 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. in late February or early March, either late April or very early May, late September, and mid to late November.
- Avoid fertilizing during the summer (June through August).
**Pest Management** - Scout lawns frequently. Identify pests. Use improved varieties. Adjust management practices. Record history of pest problems. Use pesticides only if needed. Read & follow label directions!

**WEED CONTROL**

**Preemergent Grass Control** – (pick only 1, products with "***" are best, remember do not apply prior to seeding or laying sod). A second application may be needed, see labels for details.
- **dithiopyr** (DIMENSION®) – pre emergent activity for crabgrass, other weedy grasses and many broadleaved weeds.
- **pendimethalin** (SCOTT’S HALTS® and many others) Same coverage as Dimension.
- **prodiamine** (BARRICADE®) – on fertilizer particle. Same coverage as Dimension
- **bensulide** (BETASAN®, SCOTT’S WEEDGRASS PREVENTER®)
- **oryzalin + benefin** (XL 2G**, AMAZE®) - if Kentucky bluegrass or perennial ryegrass are present consider another herbicide.

**Preemergent Broadleaf Control** -
- **isoxaben** (GALLERY®, PORTRAIT®, Isoxaben)

**Postemergent Broadleaf Control** -
- **WEED-B-GON®, TRIMEC®, Bayer Lawn Weed & Crabgrass Killer®, Spectracide Weed Stop For Lawns® or Ortho Weed–B-Gone Max plus Crabgrass Control®.**

**Postemergent Nutsedge Control** -
- **halosulfuron-methyl** ( SEDGEHAMMER®) – for yellow or purple nutsedge.
- **bentazon** (BASAGRAN®) - yellow nutsedge.

**Grass Killer for Edging** – (do not use these over the lawn)
- **glyphosate** (ROUNDUP®, ROUNDUP PRO®, RANGER PRO®, HONCHO PLUS®, KILLZALL®, and many more)
- **glufosinate-ammonium** (FINALE®)
- **fluazifop-butyl** (GRASS-B-GON®, OVER-THE-TOP WEED & GRASS KILLER®)
- **sethoxydim** (SEGMENT®, Grass Getter®) – for tall fescue control, not ryegrass or bluegrass control

**WHITE GRUB CONTROL**

**Preventive (P):** Products containing imidacloprid (Merit®), clothianidin (Arena®, Green Light Grub Control with Arena®), chlorantraniliprole (Acelepryn®, Scott’s GrubEx®), or halofenozide (Mach 2®, Spectracide® Grub Stop™). Apply preventative products in late April to mid-May, but only in areas with repeated history of grub problems. 

**Curative (C):** Products containing trichlorfon (Dylox®, Bayer Advanced™ 24 Hour Grub Killer), or clothianidin (Arena®, Green Light Grub Control with Arena®) where grubs are known to be a current problem and found to be present. Apply in mid-August through mid-September. Irrigate after application to activate the product.

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