

Turf Care Calendar for Cool-Season Lawns in Kentucky

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Management Practice	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Aerify ¹												
Lime ²												
Mow ³												
Mower maintenance ⁴												
Nitrogen fertilization ⁵												
PRE-herbicides for annual grassy weeds ⁶												
POST-herbicides for annual grassy weeds ⁷												
POST-herbicides for broadleaf weeds ⁷												
Seeding for renovation or initial establishment ⁸												
Sodding ⁹												
Curative white grub control ¹⁰												
Preventive white grub control ¹⁰												

Note: Cool-season lawns include Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, fine fescues, and perennial ryegrass.

■ Best time to perform activity
 ■ Second-best time to perform activity
 □ Do not perform activity

- Not all lawns need to be aerified or dethatched. These only need to be done if the soil is excessively hard or a great deal of thatch exists. For more information on aerification and dethatching, see AGR-54, *Aerifying and Dethatching Lawns*.
- Lime only needs to be applied if indicated by a soil test report. Applying lime when it is not needed, as indicated by a soil test, could result in reduced nutrient availability and turfgrass health. For more information on liming, see AGR-214, *Liming Kentucky Lawns*.
- Lawns can be mowed any time of the year if the grass is growing. Mowing height should be increased in the summer to reduce stress from heat and drought. For more information on mowing, see AGR-209, *Mowing Your Kentucky Lawn*.
- Mower maintenance, including blade sharpening and oil and filter changes, should be done in the winter so the mower will be ready to use for the lawn growing season. For more information on mower maintenance, see the "Your Kentucky Lawn" videos *Blade Sharpening* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMy1j9NR89o&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhIg>) and *Seasonal Lawn Mower Maintenance* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxgbMDdT6bQ&list=UUMFY6zEWe6uJEYakzOofhIg>).
- Nitrogen fertilizer should only be applied in the spring to lawns if it was not applied in the fall. Excessive nitrogen applied in the spring and/or summer reduces turfgrass health and promotes insects, diseases, and weeds. For more information on fertilizing, see AGR-212, *Fertilizing Your Lawn*.
- Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied in early April in southern and western Kentucky and by April 15 for central, eastern, and northern Kentucky. A second application may be necessary in late May to insure grass control all summer. Summer annual grassy weeds include crabgrasses, goosegrass, and foxtails. An autumn pre-emergent application may be necessary for annual bluegrass and winter annual broadleaf weed control. The autumn application should be avoided if the lawn will be seeded with desirable species. For more information on weed control, see AGR-208, *Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns*.
- Post-emergent herbicides work best when weeds are young, succulent, and actively growing. For more information on weed control, see AGR-208, *Weed Control for Kentucky Home Lawns*.
- Late-summer/early autumn is the ideal time for planting seed, seed germination and grass seedling development. Although spring lawn seedings can be successful, irrigation and extra care are likely necessary for juvenile grass plants to survive the summer. For more information on seeding, see AGR-50, *Lawn Establishment in Kentucky* and AGR-51, *Renovating Your Lawn*.
- Sod can be laid at any time during the year as long as the soil is not frozen. For more information on sodding, see AGR-50, *Lawn Establishment in Kentucky*.
- Insecticide applications for white grub control should only be made if a history of grubs exists in the lawn or if grubs are present. For more information on controlling white grubs in the lawn, see ENT-10, *Controlling White Grubs in Turfgrass*.

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Revised 7-2016