

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Lawn Maintenance Program Schedule

For South Texas

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Date	Activity
January - February	Spray totally dormant bermudagrass lawns with glyphosate(Roundup or other trade name products) or glufosinate-ammonium(Finale) to control both grassy and broadleaf weeds. Warning if bermudagrass is not totally dormant you can burn the grass with a glyphosate or glufosinate-ammonium product causing damage to the grass. Products are not cleared for St. Augustine lawns and will cause damage to St. Augustine lawns if applied. It is also a good time to soil test for fertilizer recommendations. Soil test information available through the County Extension Office.
February 1-March 1	Apply preemergent weed control treatments to control crabgrass, goosegrass and other grassy and broadleaf weeds. Products containing benefin (Balan, Green Light Amaze), oryzalin (Surflan), bensulide (Betasan), pendimethalin (Scotts Crabgrass Preventer), dithopyr (Vigoro Preemergent Crabgrass Control), isoxaben (Gallery or Green Light Portrait Broadleaf Weed Preventer), or simazine (Princep) are recommended. Water the lawn thoroughly after preemergent herbicide treatments. If Take All Patch disease is a problem, preemergent weed control applications may accentuate disease problems.
March 1-March 31	Apply preventative fungicide treatments, compost treatments or Sphagnum peat moss at one 3.5 cubic bale per 1000 sq feet to lawns that have a history of Take-All Patch Fungus. Research shows that preventative treatments applied when soil temperatures range between 60-65° F will be more effective than treating after visual symptoms appear in mid-summer or after winter kill in the spring. Recommended fungicides include azoxystrobin (Heritage), fenarimol (Rubigan), propiconazole (Banner Maxx or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide), or myclobutanil (immunox).Water the lawn thoroughly after treatments.If Brown patch develops treat with fungicides such as PCNB (terraclor), mancozeb, myclobutanil(Immunox), propiconazole (Fertilome Liquid Fungicide), or thiophanate-metyl (Fertilome Halt or Scott's Lawn Fungus If herbicides were not used to

control grassy and broadleaf weeds begin mowing at lowest mower setting to prevent shading of turfgrass in transition. Be cautious with St Augustine that may have thatch problems. This is also a good time to aeriate your lawns.

March 15-April 30

If broadleaf weeds are a problem spray weeds with broadleaf weed killers containing 2,4-D, dicamba, MCPP, MCPA, triclopyr, or clopyralid. Many brand name products are available including Trimec, Greenlight Wipeout, Ortho Weed-B-Gone, Bayer Advanced Lawn Weed Killer, and Fertilome Weed-Out.

April 15-April 30

After complete St. Augustine and bermudagrass greenup, fertilize according to soil test recommendations. In the absence of a soil test fertilize with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Examples would be to use 5 pounds of a 21-7-14; 7 pounds of a 15-5-10 or 9 pounds of a 12-4-8 per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. A slow release form of nitrogen such as sulfur coated urea is recommended over the highly soluble forms of nitrogen. Excessive nitrogen rates should not be used as they foster disease development and lead to excessive growth rates. Water the lawn thoroughly after fertilizer applications. Begin mowing lawns at proper heights: bermudagrass at 1-1 ½ inches; St. Augustine at 2-3 inches; Zoysia at 1-2 inches and Buffalograss at 2-3 inches of height. Mow frequently enough to remove no more than one third of the leaf at any one time. Water the lawn only as needed in the spring as over watering, late evening and night watering encourages development of diseases such as brownpatch in St. Augustine and Zoysiagrass. Excellent time to establish new lawns from sod or seed. Soil temperatures need to reach 70° F before planting bermudagrass seed.

May 1- May 30

Fertilize Buffalograss and Zoysiagrass. According to soil test recommendations. In the absence of a soil test fertilize with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. St. Augustine lawns should be watched closely for Brown patch. Disease develops with wet humid conditions when night temperatures fall below 70° F and day temperatures range from 80- 85° F. Avoid over watering and over fertilization to reduce favorable conditions for disease to develop. Application of herbicides, especially the hormone type herbicides, can increase the activity of Brown patch. If Brown patch develops treat with fungicides such as PCNB (terraclor), mancozeb, myclobutanil (Immunox), propiconazole (Fertilome Liquid Fungicide), or thiophanate-metyl (Fertilome Halt or Scott's Lawn Fungus Control). Continue new lawn establishments from seed, sod or sprigs. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Excellent time to begin fire ant bait treatments followed by

individual mound treatments. Bait treatments include hydramethylnon (Amdro or Combat), abamectin (Raid or Ascend), fenoxycarb (Award or Logic), pyiproxfen (Distance) or methoprene (Extinguish). Individual mound insecticides include acephate (Orthene), carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin (Spectracide BugStop), pyrethrins (Organic Solutions) or other products. Another product fipronil (Sevin Over and Out) is a season long control product.

June 1-15

Fertilize common bermudagrass lawns with a fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Watch for symptoms of Gray Leaf Spot on St. Augustine grass. Symptoms will appear as lesions on the leaves with blue-gray centers with slightly irregular brown margins that are in turn bordered by a ring of chlorotic tissue. Gray leaf spot is more likely to appear on St. Augustine lawns in partial shade with high nitrogen fertility rates. Treat Gray Leaf Spot with propiconazole (Green Light Liquid Fungicide) myclobutanil (Immunox).

June 15-30

If the lawn has a history of grub problems, apply halofenozide (Scott's Grub Ex) or imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control). Continue mowing and watering as needed.

July 1-15

Fertilize bermudagrass and St. Augustine lawns with a fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Continue mowing and watering as needed. Take-All Patch symptoms may begin to appear in lawns and continue if summer conditions are very hot and dry.

July 15-August 15

Check lawn for insect activity such as chinch bugs or white grubs. If chinch bugs are found treat with bifenthrin (Talstar) or cyfluthrin (Tempo or Bayer Advance Garden Lawn & Garden Multi-Insect Killer). Check for white grubs by taking a shovel or sharp shooter and cutting a one square foot area of sod to a depth of 4-6 inches. If 4-5 grubs per square foot are found, treat the lawn with carbaryl (sevin) halofenozide (Scott's Grub Ex) or imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Season Long Grub Control). Continue mowing and watering as needed.

September 15-October 15

Fertilize bermudagrass, St. Augustine, Zoysia, and Buffalograss with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area. Apply preemergent weed control treatments to control bur clover, chickweed, annual bluegrass, ryegrass, and rescuegrass. Products containing benefin (Balan, Green Light Amaze), oryzalin (Surflan), isoxaben (Green Light Portrait Broadleaf Weed Preventer) and simazine (Princep and Fertilome Winterizer and Weed Preventer).

October 15-November 15

If Take All Patch disease symptoms appeared during the summer months, now would be a good time to apply preventative treatments. Recommended fungicides include azoxystrobin (Heritage), fenarimol (Rubigan), proiconazole (Banner Maxx or Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide), or myclobutanil (Immunoz). Water the lawn thoroughly after treatments. Treat with spagnum peat moss at one 3.8 cubic foot bail per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

December - January

If adequate rainfall does not occur, water the lawn every 4-5 weeks during the dormant season to reduce susceptibility to winter kill. Control emerging annual weeds when needed with herbicides as listed above. It is also a good time to soil test for fertilizer recommendations. Water test for poor irrigation water that may be effecting ph values or adding high sodium content to your soils. Water and soil test can be obtained from your County Extension Office.

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