

## Post Rock Answers

By Cassie Thiessen April 12, 2024

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### Cool-Season Lawn Care Calendar

Do you want to be the envy of all your neighbors this summer? A lush green lawn gives your home more curb appeal and creates an attractive border for the rest of your landscaping. Doing a few extra steps this spring can keep your grass happy and healthy all summer long. With the warmer temperatures and sunny days ahead, it's the perfect time to get outside and have some fun in your landscape. Follow these steps to have the best looking lawn on the block. The following calendar is for cool season grasses such as Tall Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass. Stay tuned for a calendar outlining care for warm season grasses.

**April:** Don't wait until you have a crabgrass problem to treat, apply a crabgrass preventer now. Base application timing on the bloom of ornamental plants. The Eastern Redbud tree is a good choice for this purpose. When the trees approach full bloom, apply a crabgrass preventer. A follow-up application will be needed about 8 weeks later unless you are using Dimension or Barricade. Products that do require a follow-up application include pendimethalin (Scotts Halts) and Team (Hi-Yield Crabgrass Control). A good, thick lawn is the best weed prevention, but if needed, apply crabgrass preventer and water it in so it starts to work.

**May:** If you water your lawn, May is the time to add slow-release fertilizer to get your turf through the summer. This can be a combination fertilizer with weed killer if broadleaf weeds are present. The fertilizer will need to be watered in, but you must wait 24 hours after application so you do not reduce the effectiveness of the weed killer.

**June through mid-July:** Apply a second treatment of crabgrass preventer. Be sure to water it in. If your lawn has a past history of grub problems, apply a product containing imidacloprid during the first half of July to prevent grub damage. Like the crabgrass preventer, it must be watered in before it becomes active.

**Late-July through August:** If you see grub damage, apply a grub killer that contains Dylox. It must be watered in within 24 hours of application for best effectiveness. The imidacloprid applied in early July only works on young, small grubs and may not be effective on the larger grubs in this part for the season.

**September:** Fall is the most important time to fertilize cool-season lawns. If you only want to fertilize your lawn once each year, it should be done during September! This application will thicken-up the lawn and promote good root development. Labor Day is the general date recommended for this application. Be sure to water in the fertilizer for best effectiveness.

**November:** A fertilizer application in November will be taken up by the roots and stored until spring green-up the following year. Spray for broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions, even if they are small. It is much easier to control broadleaf weeds in the fall than in the spring. Make sure to spray on days that are at least 50 degrees, and be sure to follow the label for application rates.

Putting a little time and effort into your lawn can go a long way for your landscape as a whole. It's not hard to add a few of these steps into your normal spring routine and create a thriving lawn this season. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.

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