



Lawn Maintenance Guide For East Texas

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February - Early March

Begin the year by mowing the lawn short, to 1 ½ inches in height and be sure to rake or remove the clippings. Begin mowing at regular intervals when the grass starts growing. St. Augustine should be mowed at a height of approximately 2 inches. Avoid scalping by never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade with any single mowing. If excessive thatch build-up in the turfgrass has been or is a problem, you might want to consider aeration of the lawn and then lightly topdress with a sandy loam topsoil or organic material such as peat, composted chicken litter or compost. If warm season annual weeds have been a problem in past years, (crabgrass, goosegrass etc...) a pre-emerge herbicide may be in order. Late February or early to late March are prime dates for a pre-emerge herbicide application. Take time to attend the Annual East Texas Turfgrass Conference in Overton.

Two Weeks After Green-Up (Mid April - Early May)

Fertilize the lawn with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 nutrient ratio such as 15-5-10, 16-6-12, 12-4-8, or similar analysis. **Do not over fertilize!** It is best to use a "slow release" type fertilizer, where at least 50% of the nitrogen is in a slow release form. A soil test may be taken to determine if lime is needed to adjust the soil pH, fertilizer recommendations will also become available, based on the soil test report. A general rule of thumb, is to apply 8 to 10 pounds of lime per 100 square feet of lawn area, we recommend applications or at least a soil test every 3 to 4 years. The best time to apply lime is in the fall, but if lime is desperately needed or required, applications at anytime are warranted. Broadleaf weeds should be sprayed in the early spring when they are young, tender and actively growing. Wipe-Out, Weed-B-Gone or other products that contain 2,4-D and or dicamba are recommended for broadleaf weed control, be sure and follow label directions. Continue mowing the lawn at the proper height, make sure not to remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade and keep the mower blade sharp, a dull blade injures grass blades and makes for a rough-cut lawn.



Late May

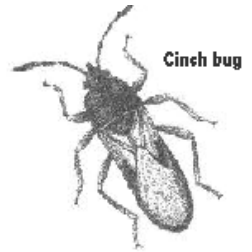
If a vigorous, fast growing lawn is desired, repeat the fertilizer application above or apply 34-0-0 (ammonium nitrate) at a rate of three (3) pounds per 1000 square feet of turf area, water well after application. Water lawn as needed,



thoroughly soak to a depth of four (4) inches to encourage a deep root system. Avoid frequent, shallow waterings. Use the Grass Mowing Height Chart below to be sure that you are mowing the turf at the proper height.

June through September

Watch for cinch bug infestations in many hot, sunny locations of the lawn, especially around sidewalks and driveways. If cinch bug damage is observed, treat with an insecticide labeled for this purpose and use according to label directions. A common disease called “gray-leaf spot” can also be a problem during these months in shady locations of the yard. When watering the lawn, be sure, if at all possible to water early in the morning, not at night, to cut down on possible lawn fungus problems.



July 1

Raise mower height during the hot summer months.

July 20 - August 10

If white grubs have been a problem, apply an insecticide according to label directions.

September 15

If you have a San Augustine lawn, treat the turf with a fungicide such as; Sentinel, Fore, Terraclor, Banner, or other products labeled for the control of brown patch, especially if the disease was a problem last year, these applications are very important as brown patch is difficult to control once it gets started. If the disease is a problem, make application and repeat application every seven to ten days for a total of three applications.



Mid to Late October

Fertilize the lawn with the same fertilizer used two weeks after spring green-up. Fall fertilization improves winter hardiness and encourages quick green-up in the spring. During the winter months, water the lawn if rainfall is lacking or limited. The fall of the year is an excellent time to take a soil sample in the yard, especially if an application of lime is in order, it would be better if applied in the fall.

Grass Mowing Height Chart

Turf Variety	Mowing Height Range	Optimal Mowing Height
Centipedegrass	1.5 to 2.5 inches	2 inches
Common Bermudagrass	1 to 3 inches	1.5 inches
Hybrid Bermudagrass	.75 to 2 inches	1 inch
St. Augustinegrass	2.5 to 4 inches	2.5 inches
Tall Fescue (Cool Season)	2 to 4 inches	2.5 inches