

LAWN MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

1. **January and July** are good months to apply **lime**. If you have not put lime out in a couple of years, we recommend using at least forty to sixty pounds per thousand square feet of lawn. If you have been putting at least 10 pounds per thousand square feet per year, that rate should still be good. Do not apply lime and slow release fertilizer at the same time. Some slow release fertilizer formulations can be adversely affected by lime if the lime is put down heavy. A ph of 6.10 to 6.5 is generally considered a good ph for this area. Consider getting a soil analysis done. We have the boxes and info sheets at the nursery that you can use and send the samples to the state. They will send you a print out of what is needed.
2. **Late Feb. thru early March** is the correct time to apply **slow release fertilizer with Dimension** which is a pre-emergent crabgrass product. Read the bag directions carefully with regard to square foot coverage. Water in or time application before rain is predicted. We usually receive our supply by the third week in Feb. If you do not want to apply crabgrass pre-emergent at this time the compound listed in #3 is a good fertilizer/broad leaf weed control.
3. **Late March thru mid-April** you can apply our **broad leaf weed control** in the form of a liquid concentrate called **Speed Zone**. This is a great compound with superb weed knockdown capability. We can also supply you with 16-0-9 slow release fertilizer with sulfentrazone and amines for those of you who do not like to spray weed killers. This powerful weed killer does work as a granular application even killing clover with ease.
4. **Late May/early June** we recommend applying **either a straight iron formula to the lawn or Anderson's 5-10-31 plus 10% iron**. Both compounds do wonders at greening up the lawn without making it grow so aggressively. Late April/early May you may see Red Thread and Brown Patch disease show up in the lawns. They are cultural problems that can usually be dealt with by following some common sense rules. Do not water at night in the spring and summer. Do not fertilize with ammonium nitrate, fast acting agricultural grades of fertilizer such as 10-10-10, 17-17-17 or 16-8-8. **DO NOT MOW YOUR LAWN ONE TO TWO INCHES IN HEIGHT!!!!!!** It is fescue, not bent grass or Bermuda. Mow high and mow the lawn when it is relatively dry. Mowing wet is not good because you leave globs of wet grass blades on the yard and your mower will invariably leave skid marks all over the lawn. Fungicide treatments are expensive! We need to avoid them as much as possible.
5. **June and July** we **monitor lawns** and reapply broad leaf herbicides as needed. You may also need to reapply pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn if it is a new lawn or you like to scalp it low when mowing. Mowing short allows the ground temperature to heat up and crabgrass and weeds love hot ground temps.
6. If you want to stop Henbit, Chickweed and other winter annuals that germinate in the fall you will need to apply **pendulum in late summer**. You will not be apply to sow grass seed for two months when using this product.

7. **Sept thru Oct** is a great time to **core aerate, seed and fertilize** the lawn. Aeration allows air, nutrients and organic matter to go deeper into your lawn's root system. We have several blends of fescues and all of our seed is certified free of weed seed. You should be careful of seed purchased at big box stores. The price may be great but if you read the seed tag you will notice a high weed seed content. For most lawns you should overseed at the rate of 1-2 lbs. of seed per thousand sq feet. If the ground is bare (no grass at all) 4-6 lbs per thousand sq feet.
8. **Late Nov/early Dec** apply **38-0-0 blue chip Urea** to your lawn. A 50Lb bag will cover 19,000 sq feet. This is a slow release fertilizer.

What is the most nitrogen you should put on a yard in the Piedmont in the course of a year? Ask an environmentalist and they will say none. Ask a golf course manager with constant irrigation, mowing, disease control and special grasses and the amounts would scare you to death. Generally, two to four pounds of nitrogen per year per thousand square feet are sufficient to keep a lawn looking great. You can get nitrogen from grass clippings. Mulching mowers are fertilizing machines because you are recycling your clippings. Keep that in mind when you purchase the next mower. It could save you a bundle on fertilizer costs. Lets do an analysis example to explain fertilizer rates. A bag of 10-10-10 has how much nitrogen in it? The response is usually ten pounds but that is not correct unless it is a 100 pound bag. It is usually a fifty pound bag and therefore only five pounds of nitrogen. The big box stores usually sell forty pound bags so watch the analysis carefully. A fifty pound bag of 10-10-10 would give you one pound of nitrogen per one thousand square feet if you applied it to five thousand square feet. Are there any other fertilizers we recommend on lawns? We are having tremendous success using Hollytone on our lawn. The analysis is 4-3-4 on a 40# bag. We use the Hollytone and Blue Chip and we usually mow twice a week from March through November (whew) because we mow real high, 4.0 inches. The Hollytone has organic humates as a component of the mix. We believe that this has been instrumental in raising the cation exchange capacity of our soil. (Ability to absorb nutrients, etc.)

Poa annua or annual blue grass has become a huge problem in our lawns. It will start germinating when soil temperatures fall below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Apply Pendulum in mid-October or as soon as you're newly seeded lawn has germinated. Re-apply in late December and you should results. Annual blue grass tends to be upright and produce huge amounts of seed. If you mow your lawn high and keep moisture amounts low in the fall and winter this will help to slow it down.

What types of insects attack our lawns in the Piedmont? Our worst problem is generally white grubs such as Japanese Beetles. You can apply insecticide granules for grubs in the fall before ground temps get cold. As the ground temps get colder the grubs will go deeper so putting down grub killer in the dead of winter will be a waste of money. The grubs will gradually move towards the surface as the ground warms up in the spring. You can apply grub control at that time if you need a second application. Grubs can eat the root system of your lawn so it is necessary to get them under control.

Thatching is a lawn care technique we use once in every 8-10 years. We do not see a lot of thatch build up on our lawns. This time consuming process really should not be needed on fescue lawns in the Piedmont.

Are there any magic bullets to use on a lawn? Maybe.....We put 5 pounds of European Night Crawlers on our lawn over a two year period. They really increase the amount of organic matter in the soil. Our lawn looks great even during droughts with just thunderstorm water. The use of Hollytone organic fertilizer helps to promote health and multiplication of the worms.