

MONTH-BY-MONTH GUIDE TO LAWN CARE

(From *Month-by-Month Gardening in Florida* by Tom MacCubbin/additions by Lukas Nursery)

JANUARY

- * NO fertilizer or weed/feed for St. Augustine, zoysia, or bahia lawns
- * Apply **iron** at one-half normal rate to renew green if needed
- * Apply **fungicide** to combat “Brown Patch” if needed
- * Mow, dig, and spot-kill weeds
- * Sow annual **rye grass** to fill in bare spots and re-green brown lawns if desired
- * DO NOT apply pesticides this time of year

FEBRUARY

- * First-of-the-year **weed/feed** application can begin when danger of freezing weather is past
- * Remove all growing crabgrass and dormant runners
- * Apply a **pre-emergence herbicide** (repeat treatment may be needed)
- * Apply **fungicide** to combat “Brown Patch” if needed
- * Watch for chinch bug and grub activity and treat with **insecticide** if needed

MARCH

- * Complete spring **weed/feed** applications (temperatures should be below 85 degrees)
- * Apply **insecticide** if you haven’t already to combat chinch bugs, grubs, sod webworm, and bill bugs(zoysia) if needed

APRIL

- * Complete spring **weed/feed** by early in month if you haven’t already. This is the last chance to do selective weed control before hot weather
- * **Iron-only** feeding (**Summer Green**) can be given bahia turf if it is showing some yellowing even after earlier spring feeding
- * Watch for lawn insects and treat as needed with **insecticide**

DO NOT USE SELECTIVE WEED KILLERS DURING HOT WEATHER!

MAY

- * Some vigorous and shallow rooted grasses (bermuda grass, zoysia grass) may need another **fertilizer** application
- * Apply a **pre-emergence herbicide** if needed
- * Apply **fungicide** at preventive or treatment rate if needed & watch for fungus infestation
- * Check bahia lawns for mole crickets, zoysia for bill bugs & sod webworm, St. Augustine for chinch bugs & sod webworm, and all lawns for grubs, and apply **insecticide** if needed

JUNE

- * Light **fertilizer** application if you missed the spring feeding
- * **Iron-only** feeding or **Summer Green** product if grass is yellowing
- * Apply **fungicide** at preventive or treatment rate if needed & watch for fungus infestation
- * Control mole crickets, chinch bugs, grubs, and other insects with **insecticide** if needed

JULY

- * Some yellowing and light green in the lawn is normal this time of year and may actually make the grass more pest resistant. Use **iron-only** fertilizer (**Summer Green**) for bahia and St. Augustine grass or **half-strength fertilizer** if desired to improve green
- * Apply **fungicide** at preventive or treatment rate if needed & watch for fungus infestation
- * Check for chinch bugs, mole crickets (bahia), grubs, bill bugs (zoysia) and other insects, and treat with **insecticide** if needed

- * Mow, dig out, or spot-kill weeds with **non selective herbicides (Weed Out/Roundup)** during the hot months

AUGUST

- * **Iron-only (Summer Green)** or light fertilizer application to make lawns greener
- * Apply a **pre-emergence herbicide** if needed
- * Apply **fungicide** at preventive or treatment rate if needed
- * Check lawn weekly for signs of insects and fungus and treat with appropriate **insecticide** or **fungicide**

SEPTEMBER

- * Fall feeding with complete fertilizer
- * Summer insects and fungus will affect the lawn for at least one more month, treat with **insecticide** and **fungicide** if needed
- * Apply **fungicide** at preventive or treatment rate if needed
- * Wait until the later part of the month to begin selective weed control. Until then pull or spot-kill weeds with a **non selective herbicide (Weed Out/Roundup)**

OCTOBER

- * Apply **fertilizer** or **weed/feed** now if you didn't in September. Bahia grass will soon begin to slow its growth.
- * Insects and fungus begin to decline, however chinch bugs, mole crickets, grubs, and a few other insects might still need to be treated with **insecticide**
- * Mowing, digging, and spot-killing weeds can continue, as well as the use of **selective weed-control** products. Broadleaf weed types are the easiest to control

NOVEMBER

- * Apply **winterizer** (potassium-only fertilizer) to your lawn.
- * Apply a **pre-emergence herbicide** if needed
- * Treat grubs in your lawn, and watch for chinch bugs and mole crickets and treat with **insecticide** as needed.

DECEMBER

- * NO fertilizer or weed/feed for St. Augustine, zoysia and bahia lawns
- * **Fungicide** for "Brown Patch" if needed (Fungicides **do not** help cold damaged lawns)
- * Do not use pesticides at this time of year
- * Overseed with **rye grass** if desired

Seminole County Extension Office: 407-665-5550
Orange County Extension Office: 407-254-9200

Lukas Nursery Recommends:

Fertilome Weed & Feed (atrazine) **(ST. AUGUSTINE ONLY!)** (cool weather)
Fertilome liquid Weed-Free Zone (carfentrazone) (cool weather)
Fertilome Weed Out (2-4-D) (bahia, zoysia/ not for St. Augustine) (coolweather)
Fertilome New Lawn Starter (new sod)
Fertilome Winterizer (high potassium)
Lukas Nursery Iron Plus Fertilizer (spring, summer, fall)
Summer Green (iron, magnesium, manganese)
Fertilome Weed & Grass Stopper pre-emergent (Treflan)
Fertilome F-Stop fungicide granules or liquid systemic (Banner)
Fertilome Bug Blaster, imidacloprid (systemic), or Dylox product (insect control)