

January: Sharpen mowing blades. Change oil and filters, lubricate and tune up gasoline powered lawn equipment. Mow lawns at normal height as necessary to prevent early emerging weeds from reseeding. Maintain soil moisture through supplemental watering if less than average rainfall. Rain and supplemental watering should ideally total ½" – 1"/week for lawns (wet soil to a depth of 6"). **Any supplemental watering must be done not to exceed any existing watering restrictions throughout the year.** If you have a warm day this month, audit your sprinkler system to confirm all heads and zones are performing as desired. Repair as necessary.

February: Mow lawns, if necessary, to prevent early emerging weeds from reseeding. Apply pre-emergent herbicide specific to your turf type, without nitrogen, to control crabgrass, grassburs and goosegrass. Repeat this treatment in May. **The fewer herbicides you use on St. Augustine lawns, the better they will perform.** Also, use only those products specifically identified for St. Augustine lawns. Water in pre-emergent when there is insufficient rainfall.

March: Do a soil analysis to determine if you will need to alter your regular fertilization program. Do not scalp lawn until it has been necessary to mow at least two times after turfgrass green-up, not based on weed growth. Early scalping encourages weed growth and any scalping does not provide horticultural benefit. Apply broadleaf weed control for existing weeds when temperatures permit according to label directions. Audit your watering system for efficiency and water only when necessary. Continue mowing as necessary to prevent winter/spring weeds from producing seed. Begin mowing warm season turfgrass before it is

necessary to cut more than 1/3 of the average blade length. Mow at slow walking speed. Mulching grass clippings retains 25% - 50% of nutrients applied to the turf.

April: Aerate lawn, preferably using plug aeration method. Mow regularly, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. Mowing is best done when grass blades are dry. Maintain soil moisture through supplemental watering if less than average rainfall. Warm season turfgrasses can be planted beginning now through early September for sod and through August when seeded, sprigged or plugged. Do not allow newly planted grasses to dry out until they are firmly established.

May: Warm season grasses (Bermuda, St. Augustine and Zoysia) may be fertilized now . Use fertilizer based on recommendation from a recent soil analysis or use ratio 4:1:2 (Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash,) which translates to a bag ratio of 16-4-8. Half of all nitrogen applied should be slow release; check label on bag. Apply when soil is moist and grass blades are dry. Water in after application. Apply broadleaf weed control and grassy weed control as necessary for your lawn. Apply liquid herbicide specific to your turfgrass type to control crabgrass, nutsedge (nutgrass), grassburs and goosegrass and broadleaf weeds. **Do not exceed label recommendations.** Continue mowing regularly, removing no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time, until dormancy in autumn.

June: Begin mowing turf at recommended highest setting for your specific turf variety. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible **within any watering restrictions** when rainfall is insufficient. Look for footprints on the surface or a blue-gray tint to the grass blades as

a sign of insufficient soil moisture. **If not done in June,** apply liquid herbicide specific to your turf type to control crabgrass, nutsedge (nutgrass), grassburs, goosegrass and broadleaf weeds, as necessary. **Do not exceed label recommendations.**

July: Mow turf at highest recommended setting for your specific turf variety. Sharpen mower blades. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible within any watering restrictions when rainfall is insufficient. It is risky to apply liquid herbicide specific to your turf type to control crabgrass, nutsedge (nutgrass), grass burs, goosegrass and broadleaf weeds with daytime temps above 90° due to yellowing of turf. Do not exceed label recommendations. Treat for chinchbugs in St. Augustine turf and do not fertilize if you have gray leaf spot in St. Augustine lawns.

August: Mow turf at highest recommended setting for your specific turf variety. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible within any watering restrictions when rainfall is insufficient. It is risky to apply liquid herbicide specific to your turf type to control crabgrass, nutsedge (nutgrass), grass burs, goosegrass and broadleaf weeds with daytime temps above 90° due to yellowing of turf. Treat for grub worm infestation if grass looks wilted, is dead, or is loose on the surface and is easily detached. Insect control must be watered in after application. **Note:** Applying broadleaf and grass weed control (spraying) can result in yellowed turf when temperatures are high: read label precautions.

September: Warm season grasses (Bermuda, St. Augustine and Zoysia) may be fertilized now. Use a ratio 4:1:2 (Nitrogen, Phosphate and

Potash,) which translates to a bag ratio of 16-4-8. Half of all nitrogen applied should be slow release; check label on bag. Apply when soil is moist and grass blades are dry. Apply granular pre-emergent without nitrogen to control annual grassy and winter broadleaf winter weeds. Watch for brown patch in St. Augustine and treat with fungicide as necessary. **Note:** Pre-emergent must be watered in; therefore, do not apply if watering is prohibited. Maintain soil moisture to the extent possible within watering restrictions when rainfall is insufficient.

October: No fertilizer or pre-emergent for **warm season** grasses this month. Remove leaf accumulations on turf surface. Some leaves on turf may be finely mulched and remain when using a mulching mower. Continue mowing based on grass rate of growth. Mulching leaves with a power mower is best accomplished with two, cross-way mowings and when leaves are dry. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible within any watering restrictions when rainfall is insufficient.

November: No fertilizer or pre-emergent for **warm season** grasses this month. Some leaves may be finely mulched and remain in turf when using a mulching mower. Mulching leaves with a power mower is best accomplished with two mowings and when leaves are dry. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible within any watering restrictions when rainfall is insufficient. Irrigation before a hard freeze is necessary to prevent freeze damage to turf roots.

December: No fertilizer or pre-emergent for **warm season** grasses this month. Maintain soil moisture for turfgrass to the extent possible within any watering restrictions when rainfall is

insufficient. Cool season broadleaf weeds can be controlled on a mild day with broadleaf weed control.

SUMMARY

Turfgrass Variety	Mowing Height (In.)	Mow When (In.)
Common Bermuda	1 ½ - 2 ½	2 ¼ - 3 ½
Hybrid Bermuda	1 - 1 ½	1 ½ - 2 ¼
St. Augustine (all)	2 - 3	3 - 4 ¼
Zoysia	2 - 2 ½	3 - 3 ¼

FERTILIZATION:

Fertilize in May and September using a 4-1-2 ratio of N-P-K. If no soil test, a default of 1-2lb N / 1,000 ft² of lawn may be applied in both May and September.

Full mulching of all grass clippings can return 25% - 50% of fertilizer nutrients to the lawn while lowering the soil surface temperature (finely mulch St. Augustine clippings to prevent thatch buildup)

Use annual soil analysis to identify any nutrient deficiencies in the lawn

IRRIGATION

Supplement natural rainfall to average a minimum of ½" - 1" water per week (½" for Common Bermuda; ¾" for Hybrid Bermuda and Zoysia; and 1" for St. Augustine

Water **once** per week, if possible, to achieve soil saturation to 6"

Turn automatic irrigation controllers to manual to only water when necessary

Adjust sprayheads to avoid runoff and unnecessary watering of hardscapes

Water only when St. Augustine and Zoysia turf exhibit a bluish-gray color or when all turf varieties show evidence of recent footsteps

DO NOT VIOLATE WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Contact a Parker County Master Gardener

Office Hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am – Noon and 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Phone: 817-598-6098

E-mail pcmga@gmail.com

Turf Management Tips by the Month

(for Bermuda, St. Augustine and Zoysia)



The three most important keys to obtaining a thick and healthy lawn are mowing, watering, and fertilizing. A thick and healthy lawn is the best weed control.



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Located in the Texas A&M
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