



Fescue Lawn Care Calendar

The Pittsboro Feed month-by-month lawn care instructions will help you have the healthiest lawn!

Fescue = a cool-season turf grass which performs best in fall, winter and spring; goes into a resting stage during the summer.

Monthly Fescue Lawn Care Calendar

January	<p>Apply Lime - pelletized (dust free & easy to apply) or pulverized (dolomitic) <i>*you must have drop spreader to use pulverized dolomitic lime</i> Stay off frozen turf! Mowing when frozen will leave tire tracks and damage growth.</p>
February	<p>Fertilize fescue¹ mid-month Over seed² if necessary, as this is the best time in the winter; only 50% effective as fall over seeding (less root development) Stay off frozen turf! Mowing when frozen will leave tire tracks and damage growth.</p>
March	<p>Apply pre-emergent³ (grassy weed preventer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option for Non-Organic <u>Espoma Weed Preventer Corn Gluten</u> is only organic option, but not as effective</p>
April	<p>Spring Lawnmower Maintenance⁷ - sharpen blades; change plug and air filter; change oil Use proper mower height⁵</p>
May	<p>Apply Broadleaf weed killer - 2,4-D Amine Weed Killer Apply for selective Bermuda control in Fescue - our options</p> <p>Brown patch raises its ugly head (becomes active when the night temperatures are above 70°F) - treat with our options <i>If a greener lawn is desire, use our options instead of a high-nitrogen fertilizer (helps prevent brown patch)</i></p>
June	<p>Recycle grass clippings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clippings don't cause thatch build-up in fescue. Don't put grass clippings in garden if you have used weed killers. <p>Play outside and enjoy your beautiful turf. Apply pre-emergent³ again for season-long crabgrass control (last 90 days)</p>
July	<p>Irrigate or water⁵ - before noon to help prevent brown patch in summer heat & humidity Re-sharpen lawnmower blades⁴ as a clean cut is better for your grass (prevents brown patch) and is better for your mower.</p>

August	<p>Apply Pre-emergent³ for annual bluegrass (early August)</p> <p>Make any necessary preparations for over seeding² in September (kill broadleaf weeds, selectively control Bermudagrass, line up and aerator if needed, etc.)</p> <p>Irrigate or water⁵ - before noon to help prevent brown patch in summer heat & humidity</p> <p>Watch for mole runs - kill grubs (their food source) and moles will go elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grubs really has grass by eating its roots, so they are actually far more damaging to the lawn than moles! • Grub treatment - milky spore (organic) and our option (not organic) • These grubs become Japanese beetles and Green June Beetles (looks like a massive Japanese beetle), <i>yet another reason to kill the grubs!</i>
September	<p>Fertilize fescue¹ mid-month</p> <p>Over seed² thin and/or bare patches</p> <p>Seeding Rates for Fescue² - see footnote</p> <p>Nighttime temperature fall below 70oF in Sept. and at those temps there is no seeding blight problem</p> <p>Use our K31/Top Choice Fescue or Extreme Shade (sun & partial shade) brands</p>
October	<p>Over seed or start new lawn²</p> <p>Fertilize fescue mid-month¹</p>
November	<p>Fertilize fescue mid-month¹ - this is the <u>MOST IMPORTANT</u> time of year to fertilize your lawn</p> <p>Remove leaf debris from newly seeded turf (to prevent smothering)</p>
December	<p>Apply Lime - pelletized (dust free & easy to apply) or pulverized (dolomitic)</p> <p><i>*you must have drop spreader to use pulverized dolomitic lime</i></p> <p>Stay off frozen turf! Mowing when frozen will leave tire tracks and damage growth.</p>

Footnotes

¹**Fertilizer Types.** *Follow instructions on bag purchased.*

- Espoma Organic lawn fertilizer
- 18-24-12 - starter fertilizer;
- **16-4-8 - maintenance fertilizer;** not for new seed; lots of nitrogen greens up lawn
- 10-10-10 - maintenance fertilizer;

²**Seeding Rates**

- New lawn - 5-6 lbs per 1000 square feet
- Fescue over seed - 3 lbs per 1000 square feet

**Too much seed crowds growth and leads to increased brown patch and other disease problems*

³**Do not sow seed at same time as using a pre-emergent** as that will prevent fescue seed from germinating

⁴**Mowing height** - set mower at 3 inches or higher (usually the highest setting) - the higher you mow, the deeper the roots grow; fewer weeds grow because they are shaded out, more photosynthesis for healthier grass

⁵Watering Rule of Thumb - in absence of rain, apply 1 total inch of water per week (clay soil) - 1/2 inch twice per week

⁶Extreme Shade Mix [description](#)

⁵Lawnmower Maintenance - we use Pittsboro Outdoor Power Equipment for all of our lawn mower needs, call them at (919) 542-6288

Additional Tip and Facts

Seed-to-Soil Contact is imperative when over seeding! Aeration and raking are valid options. Don't just toss the seed out on top of the lawn as you won't get great germination and growth.

“Continue Mowing as Long as Grass is Growing” but then stop during slow growth seasons and dormancy.

What about ryegrass? Over seeding you lawn with annual ryegrass is NOT ideal because ryegrass will crowd out the fescue in the spring, and then dies in early summer, leaving fescue in a weakened condition just as the heat and rigor of summertime begins.

Most of our seed comes from Wyatt-Quarles Seed Company, they are a small family business based in Garner, NC. All seed is pure and weed-free seed with absolutely no noxious weeds. You cannot get that guarantee from most other grass seed companies. It is completely legal to sell grass seed with weed contaminants - read the labels!

Warm-season grasses like Bermuda, Zoysia and Centipede have the opposite growing season of fescue so don't acre for them based on this calendar - for fescue only!

Have any other questions or problems that aren't covered here? Come see us and we will help you out!