

Spring Lawn Care Calendar

Cooler months are the ideal time to plan for a lush green lawn in spring and summer. With some maintenance beginning in March, now is a great time to plan out your lawn care calendar for the year!

Most Kansas homeowners grow such cool-season grasses as bluegrass and tall fescue. However, some homeowners prefer zoysia and Buffalo grass, both are popular warm-season grasses.

Often, we receive calls from homeowners wanting to treat broadleaf weeds in July or re-seed in June. The reality to a healthy lawn is careful planning and preparation so that each problem is handled at the appropriate time to maximize success.

By following the appropriate timeline, homeowners are much more likely to have a healthy lawn that can out-compete weeds and handle environmental stress like drought or heat better than a neglected lawn.

Cool-season grasses:

- **March** – Spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Weeds should be treated on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. After treatment, avoid watering (or rain in the forecast) for 24 hours.
- **April** – Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it begins to work. One-quarter inch of water is enough to activate the preventer.
- **May** – Fertilize your lawn with a slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn, or if you normally receive enough rainfall that the lawn doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. Spot treat broadleaf weeds with a spray or use a fertilizer that includes weed killer. Rain or irrigation within 24 hours will decrease the effectiveness of the weed killer, but fertilizer needs to be watered in. If using a product with both fertilizer and weed killer, wait 24 hours before watering.

Warm-season grasses:

- **March** – Spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Weeds should be treated on a day that is 50 degrees F or warmer. After treatment, avoid watering (or rain in the forecast) for 24 hours.
- **April** – Apply crabgrass preventer when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water is enough to activate the preventer.
- **May – August 15** – Fertilize with one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application. Follow the recommendations on the bag. Increased fertilize applications can result in a deeper green color, but it will also increase mowing and lead to thatch

buildup with zoysia or Bermudagrass. Homeowners should plan on two to four applications of fertilizer for Bermudagrass, and one to two for zoysia and Buffalo grass. You can use the following guidelines to determine when to apply fertilizer:

- One Application: Apply in June.
- Two Applications: Apply May and July.
- Three Applications: Apply May, June, and early August.
- Four Applications: Apply May, June, July, and early August.

For a complete lawn care schedule stretching through November, subscribe to [K-State's weekly horticulture newsletter](#), which includes information on fruit, vegetables, trees and a variety of other landscape topics!