

Cool season perennial grass – Fescue

- Soil Test (lime requirements, N-P-K). Apply lime per soil test results.
- Core aerate (relieve soil compaction, open soil for oxygen and water filtration). Do once a year at fall overseed time.
- Irrigate 2 days before aeration if possible.
- If new establishment, rate should be 10# per 1000 sft. If overseed an established lawn rate is 5-7# per 1000 sft.
- Depending on a soil test apply a starter fertilizer (18-24-12 analysis or something similar). Starter fertilizer at this analysis at 4# per 1000 sft will supply 1# P, $\frac{3}{4}$ # N, and $\frac{1}{2}$ # K. Nitrogen is typically 25% SRN which will only last for about a month. If phosphorous is not deficient then apply a 16-4-8 starter, instead of 18-24-12.
- Irrigate lightly twice a day for the first 2 weeks (15-30 minutes with a sprinkler) to keep seed and soil moist. As seed germinates back off irrigation to once every other day, etc. Sufficient rain can substitute as an irrigation event.
- Follow label instructions for when it is safe to apply a pre-emergent herbicide, or wait at least 2 months and 3 mowing's (and new seedlings are established) before applying fertilizer plus pre-emerge.
- If eradicating bermudagrass – start applying glyphosate late summer to get 2 or 3 applications in before fall overseed.

Calendar: (may vary...depends on Mother Nature and a soil test)

- **February 15th** – 16-0-8 fertilizer with pre-emergent herbicide (split AI application) and post-emergent application.
- **April 15th** – Second (split AI) pre-emergent herbicide round. Apply with low nitrogen analysis.
- **September 15th** – Aerate, seed, lime, starter fertilizer.
- **November 15th** – 16-0-8 fertilizer and pre-emergent herbicide (6-8 weeks efficacy).
- **December 15th** – Post-emergent herbicide (or as needed)

Fungicide Applications:

To prevent brown patch (foliar disease - Rhizoctonia sp.) and other turf pathogens.

May 15th – Systemic fungicide application

June 15th – Systemic fungicide application

July 15th – Systemic fungicide application

Some, but not all, fungicides to consider are Headway (asoxystrobin/propiconazole), Cleary's/T-Storm (thiophanate methyl), Eagle (myclobutanil).

Fungicides should be different FRAC code # to get different MOA/Target Sites. Rotate chemicals based on label directions.

Herbicide Applications:

I would highly recommend pre and post-emergent herbicide applications as needed to control existing weeds throughout the year, especially perennial warm and cool season weeds that will re-emerge from root and tubers (not just seeds). Pre-emergent

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herbicides will greatly reduce weed seed emergence but will not eliminate all seed breakthrough, and is needed on a continual basis as recommended.

Fall pre-emergence needed to control poa annua (annual bluegrass) and other winter weeds including henbit and chickweed. Timing of pre and post emergence is critical if over-seeding with cool season grasses. Would recommend over-seeding the fescue areas as needed, then follow-up with pre-emerge later in the fall after seed has emerged, and have been mowed at least three times and is actively growing to be able to withstand pre-emergent application (per pre-emerge label recommendations). Pre-emergence is recommended as well for Bermuda areas – although if not over-seeding Bermuda it is recommended to apply pre-emergence earlier in September/October depending on the weather. Follow-up with post-emergent application in the winter for any cool season weed breakthrough.

- Don't aerate or disturb soil after applying pre-emergents.
- Post-emergent herbicides vary greatly depending on what weed is present. But generally weeds are either grassy, broadleaf, or sedges.

Irrigation:

- 1" to 1.5" is sufficient for fescue and/or bermudagrass.
- Irrigation is measured by output, not just by runtime.
- Irrigate 2 to 3 times a week, not every day. It is better for turf health to apply higher rates and less frequent, then lighter rates and more frequent.
- Water in early morning hours (between 2 – 5 am).
 - Irrigating correctly encourages deep roots which help it during drought and cold, and discourages brown patch from forming.