

JANUARY Dormant under snow for the winter. Keep traffic off the frozen turf, since the crowns shatter underfoot.	APRIL - Good time for a soil test (every 2-3 years). It gets you set before fall, a cool-season lawn's biggest feeding. - Soil hitting 50°F? Time for the first half of your split pre-emergent. Use a short-residual product.	JULY Let the lawn go heat-dormant. Water ONLY about 0.25" every 2-3 weeks to keep the crowns alive, and DO NOT force green-up.	OCTOBER - Gradually drop your mowing height to 2.5". - If you've had snow mold before, this is the time for a preventative fungicide (propiconazole). - Skip the late-fall winterizer. Fine fescue doesn't need it.
FEBRUARY Still dormant through the deep freeze, nothing to do but let it rest.	MAY - Soil hits 55°F? Time for the second half. - Light spring feeding (~0.5 lb N / 1,000 sq ft). Keep nitrogen low. - Spot-treat broadleaf weeds, but only once air temps hold above 65°F. WEED ID TOOL → TURFTRIGGER.COM/TOOLS	AUGUST - Good time to scout for grubs. - Late Aug: slit-seed any thin areas. NEVER core aerate. - Apply starter fertilizer and mesotrione (Tenacity) with the seed. On fine fescue it can cause temporary whitening; the seedlings grow out of it.	NOVEMBER Ground freezes and the turf settles into full dormancy.
MARCH Snowpack melts this month. Stay off the muddy turf to avoid compaction.	JUNE - Raise your mower to 3"+. - Good time for preventative grub control.	SEPTEMBER Apply a light fall feeding (~0.5 lb N / 1,000 sq ft) once the seedlings establish.	DECEMBER Dormant under snow, nothing to do until spring.

Good to know

Cool-season grass in USDA zone 4. Heat dormancy in July is required for survival. Core aeration is strictly prohibited to protect crowns.

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