

JANUARY

- Dormant under snow for the winter. Keep traffic off the frozen turf to protect the crowns.

FEBRUARY

- Still dormant through the deep freeze, nothing to do but let it rest.

MARCH

- Snowpack melts this month. Stay off the muddy turf to avoid deep ruts and compaction.

APRIL

- Good time for a soil test (every 2-3 years). It gets you set before fall, a cool-season lawn's biggest feeding.
- Gently rake the matted grass to break up any snow-mold webs.
- Soil hitting 50°F? Time for the first half of your split pre-emergent. Use a short-residual product so it clears in time for August overseeding.

MAY

- Soil hits 55°F? Time for the second half.
- Light feeding of the year (~0.5 lb N).
- Sharpen your mower blades. PRG's fibrous leaves tear easily, which invites Leaf Spot.
- Spot-treat broadleaf weeds, but only once air temps hold above 65°F.

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JUNE

- Raise your mower to 3"+ to help the lawn handle summer heat.
- Good time for preventative grub control.

JULY

- Water deeply and infrequently, about 1-1.5"/week, to drive deep roots.

AUGUST

- Late Aug: core aerate and overseed. PRG suffers severe winterkill here, so annual seeding is mandatory.
- Apply starter fertilizer with the seed. PRG germinates fast, in 5-7 days.
- In a hot, humid spell, keep an eye out for Gray Leaf Spot; it's rare this far north but can move fast on ryegrass.

SEPTEMBER

- Time for a compressed fall feeding (fast-release N). Zone-3 soil cools too fast for a late-fall application.
- Good time for a second broadleaf weed pass. Fall applications are best at killing perennial roots.

OCTOBER

- Drop your mowing height to ~2.5".
- Clear fallen leaves to prevent smothering.
- Time for a preventative snow mold fungicide (propiconazole).

NOVEMBER

- Ground freezes and the turf settles into full dormancy.

DECEMBER

- Dormant under snow, nothing to do until spring.

Good to know

Cool-season grass in USDA zone 3. ⚠️ Extreme winterkill risk: PRG struggles in deep freezes without snow cover. Fast germination (5-7 days) makes annual late-August overseeding effective.

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