

JANUARY Dormant under snow for the winter. Keep traffic off the frozen turf to protect the crowns.	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.	JULY Water deeply and infrequently, about 1-1.5"/week, to drive deep roots.	OCTOBER - Mid-Oct: apply a moderate fast-release feeding. DO NOT push late growth. Watery crowns shatter in a hard freeze (crown-hydration injury). - Drop your mowing height to ~2.5", and clear fallen leaves to prevent smothering. - If you've had snow mold before, this is the time for a preventative fungicide (propiconazole).
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 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. WEED ID TOOL → TURFTRIGGER.COM/TOOLS	AUGUST - Good time to scout for grubs. - Late Aug: core aerate and overseed. PRG is bunch-type and suffers winterkill, 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.	NOVEMBER Ground freezes and the turf settles into full dormancy.
MARCH Snowpack melts this month. Stay off the muddy turf to avoid deep ruts and compaction.	JUNE - Raise your mower to 3-3.5" to help the lawn handle summer heat. - Good time for preventative grub control.	SEPTEMBER - Time for your primary fall feeding, the year's heaviest (~1 lb N), once the new seedlings are established. - Good time for a second broadleaf weed pass. Fall applications are best at killing perennial roots.	DECEMBER Dormant under snow, nothing to do until spring.

Good to know

Cool-season grass in USDA zone 4. Fast germinating but vulnerable to winterkill. Requires annual late-summer overseeding. Late-season nitrogen must be carefully managed to prevent crown-hydration freeze injury.

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