

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 ruts.

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.

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.

JUNE

- Raise your mower to 3"+ to help the lawn handle summer heat.
- Good window for preventative grub control, June through July.

JULY

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

AUGUST

- 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.

SEPTEMBER

- Time for your primary fall feeding, the year's heaviest (~1 lb N), once the new seedlings are established.

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).

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 5. Highly susceptible to crown-hydration freeze injury; strictly manage late-season nitrogen. Fast germinating but requires annual overseeding.

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