

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.

MAY

- Soil hits 55°F? Time for the second half.
- Light spring feeding of the year (~0.5-0.75 lb N).
- Spot-treat broadleaf weeds, but only once air temps hold above 65°F.

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JUNE

- Raise your mower to 3.5-4" to shade the roots.
- Good time for preventative grub control.

JULY

- Water deeply and infrequently, about 1-1.5"/week.
- Keep an eye out for Brown Patch in high humidity.

AUGUST

- Good time to scout for grubs.
- Late Aug: core aerate and overseed. Tall fescue is bunch-type and needs annual reseeding.
- Apply starter fertilizer with the seed.

SEPTEMBER

- Time for your primary fall feeding (heavy N, ~1 lb) once the new seedlings have been mowed twice.
- Good time for a second broadleaf weed pass. Fall applications are best at killing perennial roots.

OCTOBER

- Gradually drop your mowing height to ~2.5" to help prevent snow-mold matting.
- Clear fallen leaves to keep them from smothering the canopy.

NOVEMBER

- Once top-growth stops, apply a fast-release late-fall winterizer.
- If you've had snow mold before, this is the time for a preventative fungicide (propiconazole).
- Turf settles into dormancy.

DECEMBER

- Dormant under snow, minimal activity until spring.

Good to know

Cool-season grass in USDA zone 5. Bunch-type physiology requires annual overseeding. Ensure fall feeding sequence separates starter fertilizer (August) from heavy Nitrogen (September).

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