

JANUARY

- Dormant for the winter, minimal activity until spring.

APRIL

- Spot-treat any broadleaf weeds.
[WEED ID TOOL → TURFTRIGGER.COM/TOOLS](https://turftrigger.com/tools)

JULY

- Track and replace evapotranspiration (ET) losses. Water deeply to keep the crowns alive.
- Survival mode this month. Do NOT push growth.

OCTOBER

- Mid-Oct: core aerate and overseed. Tall fescue is bunch-type and needs annual reseedling.
- Apply a high-phosphorus starter fertilizer with the seed.

FEBRUARY

- 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.

MAY

- Hold all nitrogen now: spring feeding forces tender growth that Brown Patch feeds on.
- Start a preventative fungicide rotation for Brown Patch (azoxystrobin, rotating to propiconazole) once nights hold above 68°F.

AUGUST

- Peak Brown Patch pressure. Keep up the fungicide rotation.
- No aeration or feeding this month, and scout for grubs.

NOVEMBER

- 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.

MARCH

- Soil hits 55°F? Time for the second half.
- Apply a light spring feeding (~0.5 lb N) to push deep root growth before the heat arrives.

JUNE

- Raise your mower to 3.5-4" to shade the roots.
- Good time for preventative grub control.
- Keep up the fungicide rotation every 14-28 days, alternating chemical classes.

SEPTEMBER

- Still baking. Stay in survival mode and hold aeration and overseeding until the heat breaks. Once the heat breaks, your fescue shifts from survival back into active growth: this is when the year's most important feeding resumes.

DECEMBER

- Once top-growth stops, apply a fast-release late-fall winterizer.

Good to know

Cool-season grass in USDA zone 8. Extreme heat stress zone requires strict summer fungicide rotations, zero summer nitrogen, and delaying the annual overseed until October.

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