

**LAWN MAINTENANCE GUIDE**  
Jefferson County Extension Service

**February - Early March**

Mow lawn short to 1½ inches in height and rake the clippings.

Begin mowing at regular intervals when grass starts growing. St. Augustine should be mowed at a height of approximately 2 inches. Avoid scalping by never removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade with any single mowing.

**Two weeks after green-up**

Fertilize the lawn with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 nutrient ratio such as 15-5-10, 12-4-8, 16-4-8 or something similar. Do not over fertilize.

A soil test may be taken to determine if lime is needed. A general rule is to apply 8 - 10 lbs. of agricultural limestone or dolomite per 100 square feet every 3 - 4 years.

Broadleaf weeds should be sprayed with a broadleaf weed herbicide that is recommended for us on St. Augustin in early spring when tender and actively growing.

Treat the lawn with Terraclor (P.C.N.B.) for Brown Patch control, especially if this disease was a problem the previous year. These preventative applications are very important as Brown Patch is difficult to control once it gets started. Repeat in about 30 days.

**Late May**

If a vigorous, fast-growing lawn is desired, repeat the fertilizer application above or apply 34-0-0 (ammonium nitrate) at a rate of 3 lbs per 1000 square feet. Water well after fertilizing.

Water the lawn as needed. Thoroughly soak to a depth of 4 inches to encourage a deep root system. Avoid frequent, shallow watering.

**June through September**

Watch for chinch bug infestations in the sunny parts of your lawn, especially around sidewalks and driveways. If chinch bug damage is observed, treat with Imidacloprid, Halofenozide, trichlorfon, or carbaryl according to label directions. A disease called gray leaf spot can be a problem during these months in shaded locations. Products containing (chlorothalonil) are labeled for control of this disease.

**July 1**

Raise the mowing height to 2½ inches during summer.

**July 20 - August 10**

If white grubs have been a problem, treat with Imidacloprid, Halofenozide, trichlorfon, or carbaryl according to label directions.

**September 15**

Treat the lawn with Terraclor (P.C.N.B.) for Brown Patch control, especially if this disease was a problem the previous year. These preventative applications are very important as Brown Patch is difficult to control once it gets started. Repeat in about 30 days.

**Mid to late October**

Fertilize the lawn with the same fertilizer used two weeks after spring green-up. Fall fertilization improves winter hardiness and encourages quick green-up in the spring.

During the winter months, water the lawn if rainfall is limited.