

## Zoysia Turf Calendar by Erin Harlow

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### Zoysia Turfgrass

- Zoysia is becoming a more popular grass for North Florida lawns. It has good tolerance to salt, shade, and wear and creates a carpet that reminds people of northern lawns.
- Popular cultivars include: Empire, JaMur, Emerald, and UltimateFlora
- Shade: Zoysia does the best in a minimum of 5 hours of sunlight. Empire is not as shade tolerant as other cultivars.
- Soil pH: Zoysia prefers a soil pH around 5.5 to 6.5.
- It should be mowed no higher than 2.5", but it is cultivar dependent.
- Zoysia may need supplemental irrigation during drought stress to remain green.



Photo Credit: UF

### Resources:

- Homeowner's Guide to Fungicides for Lawn and Landscape Disease Management - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp154>
- Turfgrass Disease Management - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040>
- Weed Management in Home Lawns - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>
- Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscape - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>
- Zoysiagrass for Florida Lawns - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh011>
- Hunting Billbug - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in364>

### Zoysia Turf Program



- The program recommended in this fact sheet is based on granular applications and recommended for turf that has a low - moderate maintenance need by homeowners.
- This program should not be compared to a commercial lawn service as programs can vary depending on application method, rate, equipment, and goals.
- The major goal for the program should include healthy shoot and root development. This is achieved through a proper irrigation and fertilizer program.

Photo Credit: UF

This calendar is based on recommendations from the University of Florida/IFAS. They are meant as guidelines and cannot apply to every situation. Homeowners should refer to the resources in this publication and their Extension Office for specific situations.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>FERTILIZER</b>												
Fertilize with a complete fertilizer (NPK) after the chance of last frost, preferably with micronutrients and slow release potassium. A 2:1 or 1:1 ratio of nitrogen to potassium is the recommended. Use no more than 4 lbs of nitrogen a year per 1,000 sq ft and no more than 1 lb of nitrogen per application. Use 0.5 lb N/1,000 sq ft if it is a quick release product.												
Apply slow release nitrogen.												
Apply iron with or without a micronutrient mix herbicides												
<b>HERBICIDES</b>												
Apply pre-emergence herbicide when soil temps reach 65 °F (usually around March 1st or when air temp reaches the 70s for several days). Time the second application 60 days or according to label after 1st application.												
Apply post-emergence herbicide treatments as needed when temperatures are in appropriate range - read the label. Usually below 90°F and above 40°F. Spot treat only during summer and winter when grass is stressed.												
<b>INSECTS</b>												
Hunting Billbugs (present year-round, but most common in fall and winter - treat if necessary)												
Fall armyworms active (treat if necessary)												
Tropical sod webworms active (treat if necessary)												
<b>DISEASES</b>												
Pythium root rot can be active (treat if necessary)												
Large patch most likely to be active (treat if necessary; preventative treatments in Feb and Oct)												
<b>IRRIGATION AND MAINTENANCE</b>												
Adjust and calibrate irrigation system.												
Install sod, core aerate, or verticut if necessary.												
Service equipment - mowers, edgers, etc.												
Complete soil test and adjust fertilizer as needed.												