

St. Augustine Turf Calendar by Erin Harlow

St. Augustine Turfgrass

- St. Augustine is the most popular grass for North Florida lawns. It is slightly salt, shade, and wear tolerant and creates a carpet affect when properly maintained.
- Popular cultivars include: Floratam, Bitterblue, Classic, Palmetto, and Seville.
- Shade: St. Augustinegrass needs a minimum of about five hours of sunlight to do well. Floratam requires the most sunlight and does the best in about eight hours of sunlight.
- Soil pH: St. Augustinegrass prefers a soil pH around 6.5.



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>
- Southern Chinch Bug management on St. Augustinegrass - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036>
- Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscape - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>

St. Augustine Turf Program



Photo Credit: UF

- 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.

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
FERTILIZER												
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.												
Apply slow release nitrogen.												
Apply liquid iron with or without a micronutrient mix												
HERBICIDES												
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.												
INSECTS												
Chinch bug treatment (rotate products; chinch bugs may become resistant to pyrethroid).												
Chinch bug treatment (if needed - spot treat)												
Fall armyworms active (treat if necessary)												
Tropical sod webworms active (treat if necessary)												
DISEASES												
Grey leaf spot most likely to be active (treat if necessary)												
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)												
Take-all root rot most likely to be active (treat if necessary)												
IRRIGATION AND MAINTENANCE												
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.												

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