

ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS YEARLY CALENDAR

MONTH ACTIVITY

January	Water only once a week. Watering more will only support cool season weed growth. Take soil samples and have a complete analysis done every third year.
February	The grass may not require mowing but flower heads need to be cut from weeds so they do not produce seeds. Good time to sharpen mower blades.
March	Once the grass has greened it can be fertilized. If using a weed and feed apply late in the month so it will kill germinating warm season weeds. Adjust irrigation timer due to Daylight Savings Time. First mowing of the year can be lower than normal to remove brown cold damaged leaf blades, then readjust mow height.
April	New sod can be planted to repair winter damaged areas. Water new sod daily for about two weeks or until rooted. Water it separately from established turf. Disease will persist due to cool nights. Scout shaded areas and near sprinkler heads for disease. Check rain gauge and only irrigate if rainfall has not occurred. Moths hovering in the lawn may be laying eggs so scout for caterpillar damage.
May	Pests prevail. Scout for chinch bug damage in hot sunny areas or near paved surfaces. Small brown patches may be due to grub damage. Weeds can be treated with a spray (post-emergent) up until temperatures prohibit use. Disease activity should be suppressed due to warm nights.
June	Temperatures won't allow for most herbicide use so keep weeds mowed. Mole crickets are hatching, look for tunnels or do a soap water flush to areas of the lawn that appear to be thinning. Scout for chinch bugs, too. Fertilize if needed.
July	Gray leaf spot is the most common disease in summer. Look for lesions on grass blades. Chinch bugs will be active particularly if a dry summer. Irrigate only when needed by tracking rainfall. Goal is one inch of water per week. Grass blades will show signs of wilt if water is required.
August	Mower blades may need to be sharpened to provide a clean cut. Do not allow weeds to go to seed. Scout weekly for damaged areas in the lawn. Look for moths as you walk through the lawn to anticipate fall army worms. Chinch bug population will be at their peak so damage can occur quickly.
September	Time for fall fertilization if needed. A winterizer or regular product can be used. Herbicide sprays can be applied to existing weeds but forego using a weed and feed fertilizer, if used. It can still be rainy so run irrigation only when lawn is showing signs of drought stress.
October	Cool season weeds reappear and warm season ones are trying to go to seed. Insect activity will decline but disease will be on the uptake due to cooler temperatures. Scout for brown spots in the lawn which could be caused by disease. Rains can still be frequent.
November	Lawn growth will be slowing but cool season weed growth will be starting. Reduce watering to once a week due to the end of Daylight Savings Time. Disease can remain active until first frost so irrigate only when needed, one-half inch/week.
December	If a freeze occurs the lawn can turn brown and stay that way until spring growth begins. Keep fallen leaves raked off of the grass for they block out sunlight and can cause dampness which can promote disease, if a warm winter. When a hard freeze is forecast, make sure the irrigation system does not come on for it can increase cold damage to the lawn.