



The Seasonal Yard Checklist

For cool-season and warm-season lawns

General lawn care information. Read and follow every product label.
Some states and towns restrict fertilizer timing or phosphorus. Call 811 before digging.
© 2026 Rip & Ride LLC. Free to print for your own use. Please do not resell.

Which grass do I have?

Cool-season grasses grow most in spring and fall and are common in the North. Warm-season grasses grow in summer heat, go brown after frost and are common in the South.

Grass	Type	Mow at	Light	Notes
Kentucky bluegrass	Cool	2.5–3.5 in	Full sun, some light shade	Dense, soft, spreads to fill gaps; needs more water than tall fescue.
Tall fescue	Cool	3–4 in	Sun to partial shade	Deep roots and good heat tolerance for a cool-season grass; clumps rather than spreads.
Perennial ryegrass	Cool	2–3 in	Full sun	Sprouts fast; often mixed with bluegrass. Also used to overseed dormant Bermuda in winter.
Fine fescues	Cool	2.5–3.5 in	Shade tolerant	Fine blades, low feeding needs; the best cool-season choice for shade.
Bermudagrass	Warm	1–2 in	Full sun only	Tough, fast-spreading and drought tolerant; goes brown and dormant in winter.
Zoysiagrass	Warm	1–2 in	Sun to light shade	Dense and slow-growing; greens up late in spring.
St. Augustinegrass	Warm	2.5–4 in	Sun to moderate shade	Wide blades; the most shade-tolerant warm-season grass. Usually planted as sod or plugs.
Centipedegrass	Warm	1–2 in	Sun to light shade	Low maintenance; likes acidic soil and is easily harmed by too much fertilizer.
Bahiagrass	Warm	3–4 in	Full sun	Very drought tolerant and low input; produces tall seed heads in summer.
Buffalograss	Warm	2–3 in	Full sun	A native, low-water grass for dry areas; needs little feeding.

Shaded rows are cool-season grasses. Typical home lawn ranges; varieties differ.

The three habits

Every lawn, every year

1. Mow a third. Never cut more than one-third of the blade. Mow when grass is 1.5 times your target height.
2. Water deep. About 1 inch a week including rain, in one or two early-morning sessions.
3. Test before you feed. A soil test from your cooperative extension service every three years.

Protect water and people

- Sweep fertilizer off hard surfaces
- Don't fertilize before heavy rain or on frozen ground
- Follow every product label exactly
- Keep kids and pets off treated areas as the label says
- Call 811 before digging or aerating near lines

Cool-season lawn checklist

Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass and fine fescues. Fall is the big season.

Spring	Done
☐ Rake out matted grass once the lawn dries	
☐ Service the mower and sharpen the blade	
☐ Crabgrass pre-emergent before soil reaches about 55°F (optional)	
☐ Start mowing at 3 to 4 inches	
☐ Light feeding only if your soil test calls for it	

Summer	Done
☐ Raise the mowing height	
☐ Water about 1 inch a week, or let it go dormant	
☐ Skip fertilizer and weed killers in heat waves	
☐ Check for grubs in late summer	

Fall	Done
☐ Aerate compacted areas	
☐ Overseed thin and bare spots	
☐ Feed in early fall (and late fall if local guidance suggests)	
☐ Spot-treat perennial broadleaf weeds	
☐ Mulch or rake leaves	
☐ Keep mowing until growth stops	

Winter	Done
☐ Winterize irrigation and drain hoses	
☐ Stabilize fuel and clean the mower	
☐ Sharpen the blade for spring	
☐ Stay off frozen grass	

Warm-season lawn checklist

Bermuda, zoysia, St. Augustine, centipede, bahia and buffalograss. Summer is the big season.

Spring	Done
☐ Service the mower and sharpen the blade	
☐ Crabgrass pre-emergent before soil reaches about 55°F (optional)	
☐ Wait for full green-up before feeding	
☐ Repair bare spots with seed, sod or plugs in late spring	

Summer	Done
☐ Mow regularly; growth is fastest now	
☐ Feed while actively growing, per soil test and local guidance	
☐ Water deeply, early morning	
☐ Aerate in early summer if compacted	
☐ Watch St. Augustine for chinch bugs	

Fall	Done
☐ Last feeding by early fall	
☐ Check for grubs in early fall	
☐ Keep mowing until dormancy	
☐ Clear leaves so they don't smother grass	

Winter	Done
☐ Stay off dormant or frosty grass	
☐ Winterize irrigation where it freezes	
☐ Service the mower and sharpen the blade	
☐ Plan spring repairs	

© 2006 Pearson Education, Inc.

One line per mow or watering. Check rain with a simple rain gauge.

[illegible]

Published by Rip & Ride LLC, 30 N Gould St Ste R, Sheridan, WY 82801. Guides at reliableservicecrew.com.