

The Basics:

1. **Mowing:** don't let the grass blades get taller than 1 inch to 1.5 inches tall during the summer, and only take off 1/3 of the grass blade at one time.
2. **Fertilizing:** 1 pound of Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. twice a year – once in the early spring and once again in August. (This can be done by applying 6 pounds of 16-4-8 or 10 pounds of 10-10-10) Also a soil test might be necessary. Contact your local Extension office for details.
3. **Watering:** Best to be done from 9pm until 10 am, to reduce water loss and fungus problems. Put on a total of 1 inch per week, in no more than three waterings. The time it takes to do this depends on your watering system – put a can out under your sprinkler and check how long it takes to get a 1/2 inch of water in the can (measure with a ruler).
4. **De-Thatching:** in Spring and Fall to prevent fungus and pest problems.
5. **Aerating:** only when needed, during active plant growth and when the soil is moist.

Common Problems and Basic Prevention:

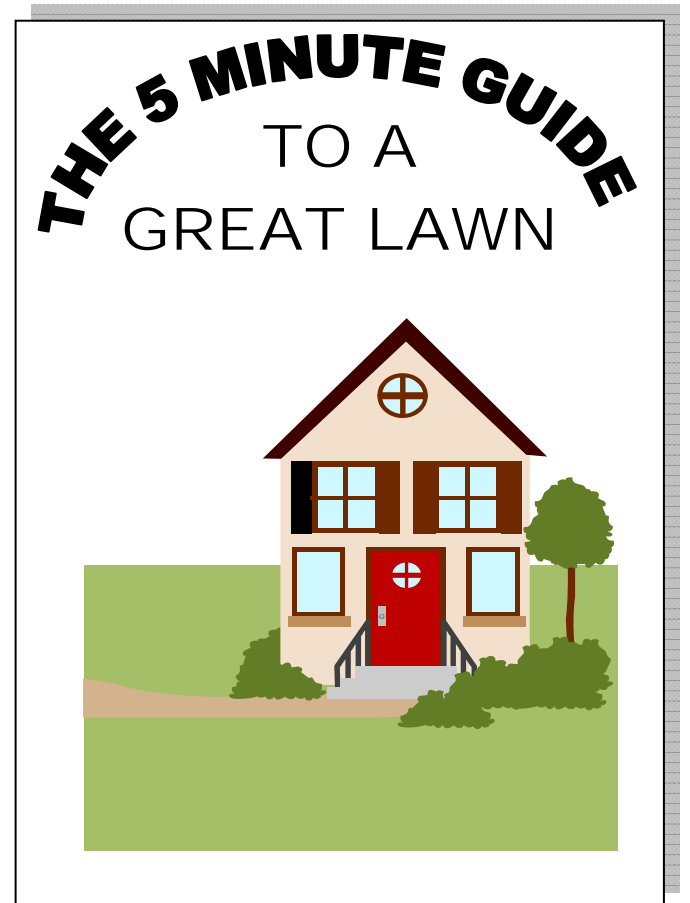
- ~ Decline: Don't over-fertilize!
- ~ Mole Crickets: call the Extension Agent for the current recommendations.
- ~ Water Stress: If lawns aren't getting the water they need, they are weaker to attacks from fungus and pests.

For more information, please contact
your local County Extension Agent



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Scott Angle, Dean and Director



CENTIPEDE

All lawns need some management.

This quick reference guide is designed for the homeowner who doesn't have a lot of time to "baby" their lawn –but wants it to look good!

Centipede lawns are some of the most carefree lawns available. The grass creates a thick carpet that weeds have a tough time penetrating. It handles shade better than Bermuda, but not as well as Zoysia or St. Augustine. Centipede needs less fertilizer and mowing than other lawns, and has minimal disease and pest problems.

Don't fertilize Centipede lawns too much! Over-fertilization of Centipede is the number one cause of decline and poor performance. During the winter, this grass goes dormant, turning brown.

Activities required include:

- Watering
- Fertilizing –twice a year only
- De-thatching
- Mowing
- Controlling weeds and pests
- Aerating

Improper watering, either too little or too much, or at the wrong time of day, is a major factor in having a poor lawn.

De-thatching is removing the accumulated dead plant tissue (thatch) from underneath the leaf blades. When thatch builds up, pests and diseases attack the turf.

Aerating is simply poking holes through the grass and into the soil, loosening the soil so that air, water, and roots will have some room. This can be done by renting a machine called an "Aerator", walking around with golf shoes on, or any other means of poking small holes through the grass into the soil.

Lawn Maintenance Schedule:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
January	Read some good books, volunteer at your favorite charity.
February	Kill summer weeds early-call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations.
March	Once the danger of frost has passed, de-thatch and aerate. Do this once before the grass turns green.
April	When the grass turns green, it's called "green-up". Begin fertilizing with 5 pounds of 12-4-8 per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn ~ Water * see back panel ~ De-thatch after green-up ~ Mow- 1 to 2 inches high
May	~ Water ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high ~
June	~ Water ~ Apply insecticide for Mole Crickets ~ Mow- 1 to 2 inches high

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
July	~ Water ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high ~
August	~ Water ~ Fertilize with 5 pounds of 12-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. of lawn. ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high ~
September	~ Water ~ Mow-1 to 2 inches high ~
October	~ Water ~ Kill winter weeds- call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations. ~ Mow-set the blade to 2 inches to prepare the grass for winter. ~
November	In cool weather the grass will go dormant and rest...so should we!
December	Enjoy the Holiday Season! Volunteer at your favorite charity.

**Continue to check your lawn for signs of diseases, fungus, or pests during the growing season.*