

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



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!

St. Augustine lawns form a thick, attractive carpet. St. Augustine is the most shade tolerant of warm-season grasses. These lawns need a good de-thatching in the spring and fall to avoid diseases and pests, and they like a regular fertilizing schedule. Chinch bugs tend to be a major problem, so most homeowners have a protection plan.

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 grass turns green (called green-up), begin fertilizing. ~ Water * see back panel ~ Fertilize: 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. or 8 pounds of 12-4-8 (every month that you fertilize) ~ Mow- 2 to 3 inches high
May	~ Water ~ Mow-2 to 3 inches high
June	~ Water ~ Apply insecticide for Chinch bugs and Mole Crickets ~ Fertilize: 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. or 8 pounds of 12-4-8 ~ Mow- 2 to 3 inches high

<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>
July	~ Water ~ Apply insecticide for Chinch bugs and Mole Crickets ~ Fertilize: 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. or 8 pounds of 12-4-8 ~ Mow-2 to 3 inches high
August	~ Water ~ Fertilize: 6 pounds of 16-4-8 per 1000 sq.ft. or 8 pounds of 12-4-8 ~ Mow-2 to 3 inches high
September	~ Water ~ Mow-2 to 3 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.*