

## 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.

Your local County Extension Agent is

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Scott Angle, Dean and Director

If you have any special needs because of a disability, please contact the County Extension Office at 229-436-7216.

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## 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>
<b>January</b>	Read some good books, volunteer at your favorite charity.
<b>February</b>	Kill summer weeds early-call the Extension office for the latest herbicide recommendations.
<b>March</b>	Once the danger of frost has passed, de-thatch and aerate. Do this once before the grass turns green.
<b>April</b>	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
<b>May</b>	~ Water ~ Mow-2 to 3 inches high
<b>June</b>	~ 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>
<b>July</b>	~ 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
<b>August</b>	~ 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
<b>September</b>	~ Water ~ Mow-2 to 3 inches high ~
<b>October</b>	~ 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.
<b>November</b>	In cool weather the grass will go dormant and rest...so should we!
<b>December</b>	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.*