

MAINTAINING  
*YOUR*

NEW SOD

Your new BuySod lawn increases  
your property value significantly.

With **proper care**, it will  
remain a great asset, providing beauty,  
a clean playing surface,  
and an improved environment.

Following basic maintenance instructions is the first step in keeping your new sod green, lush and well manicured.

Mow often, generally removing no more than 1/3 of the grass height at each mowing. Keep your mower blade sharp. Fertilizer and chemical applications will depend on climate, sod type, soil, insects and seasons and are detailed in each calendar.

Maintenance for your lawn is specifically related to the type of turfgrass variety you have installed. Detailed maintenance schedules, defined by seasons, for each turfgrass variety is listed throughout this brochure.

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*These maintenance calendars can also be found on our website, [www.buysod.com](http://www.buysod.com).*

## ■ ZEON, JAMUR, EL TORO, & MEYER ZOYSIA

### MARCH - MAY

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#### **MOWING**

Mow the lawn when it first turns green in the spring using a rotary mower set as low as possible without scalping the lawn. Mow the grass between 1 ½ to 3 ½ inches taking no more than 1/3 of the plant at a time. Then practice grasscycling. Grasscycling is simply leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and can provide up to 25 percent of the lawn's fertilizer needs. If prolonged rain or other factors prevent mowing and clippings are too plentiful to leave on the lawn, they can be collected and used as mulch. Whatever you do, don't bag them. Grass clippings do not belong in landfills.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet three weeks after the grass turns green. In absence of a soil test, use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (for example, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8). Submit a soil sample to determine nutrient requirements, if you haven't already. To determine the amount of product required to apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet, divide 50 by the first number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 5-5-15 fertilizer, divide 50 by 5. The result is 10 pounds of product per thousand square feet.

#### **IRRIGATION**

Water soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Zoysia grass needs a weekly application of 1 to 1 1/4 inches of water. On sandy soils, it requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for three to five hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It takes 620 gallons of water to apply 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate these areas until run off occurs; wait one-half hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark, bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass, goosegrass, and foxtail by the time the dogwoods are in full bloom. Apply postemergence herbicides in May as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, and lespedeza. Products containing two or three broadleaf herbicides are usually more effective in controlling several different broadleaf weeds in a lawn. Be sure the product is labeled for use on zoysia grass. Apply only if weeds are present and wait until three weeks after the grass turns green.

#### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and army worms; control them if necessary.

#### **THATCH REMOVAL**

Vertically mow after the grass turns green to remove thatch if it is more than 1/2 inch thick. Do not attempt to remove too much thatch at one time.

### JUNE-AUGUST

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#### **MOWING**

Mow before the grass grows taller than 3 inches. Recycle nutrients by not collecting clippings unless they are unsightly or in clumps.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet in June, July, and August if needed. In absence of a soil test, use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (for example, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8). Submit a soil sample to determine nutrient requirements, if you haven't already. amount of product required to apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet, divide 50 by the first number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 5-5-15 fertilizer, divide 50 by 5. The result is 10 pounds of product per thousand square feet. (Do not apply Nitrogen after September 1st.)

#### **IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Zoysia grass needs a weekly application of 1 to 1 1/4 inches of water. On sandy soils, it requires more frequent necessary to irrigate an area for three to five hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It takes 620 gallons of water to apply 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate these areas until run off occurs; wait one-half hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark, bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest problems and environmental stress later.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply postemergence herbicides as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, and lespedeza. Do not apply postemergence herbicides unless weeds are present, grass is actively growing, and the lawn is not suffering from drought stress.

### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and control them if necessary. August is the best time to control grubs because they are small and close to the soil surface. If present control them by applying a soapy flush solution.

### **THATCH REMOVAL**

Vertically mow to remove thatch if it is more than 1/2 inch thick. Do not attempt to remove too much thatch at one time.

## **SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER**

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### **MOWING**

Mow the lawn with a rotary mower following the March through May guidelines until several weeks before the first expected frost. Raise the mowing height to 1/2 " as winter approaches. Recycle nutrients by not collecting clippings unless they are unsightly or in clumps.

### **FERTILIZATION**

Fertilize with 1 pound of potash (K20) using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-60), 2 pounds of potassium sulfate (0-0-50), or 50 pounds of sul-po-mag (0-0-22) per thousand square feet. To determine the amount of product required apply 1 pound of potash per thousand square feet, divide 100 by the third number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 6-6-12 fertilizer, divide 100 by 12. The result is 8.3 pounds of product per thousand square feet. **(DO NOT APPLY NITROGEN AFTER SEPTEMBER 1ST.)**

### **IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Zoysia grass needs a weekly application of 1 to 1 1/4 inches of water. On sandy soils, it requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for three to five hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It takes 620 gallons of water to apply 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate these areas until run off occurs; wait one-half hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark, bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Dormant zoysia grass may still need to be watered periodically when warm, windy weather prevails.

### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply herbicides as needed to control winter annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as chickweed and henbit. Preemergence herbicides will not control existing perennial weeds. Apply postemergence herbicides only when weeds are present.

### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and army worms; control them if necessary.

## **DECEMBER – FEBRUARY**

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### **MOWING**

Pick up debris (rocks, sticks, leaves, etc.) from lawn. Dormant zoysia grass need not be mowed.

### **FERTILIZATION**

Do not fertilize.

### **IRRIGATION**

Dormant zoysia grass may need to be irrigated periodically to prevent desiccation especially when warm, windy weather prevails.

### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides as necessary to control chickweed, henbit, and hop clover. Selective herbicides can be applied in November or December to control annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and several annual broadleaf weeds. Apply postemergence herbicides only when weeds are present.

## ■ T-10, TIFSPORT, TIFWAY 419, & PATRIOT BERMUDE

### MARCH - MAY

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#### **MOWING**

Mow the lawn when it first turns green in the spring with a rotary mower set as low as possible without scalping. Mow before the grass gets taller than 1 1/2 to 2 inches. **Please note that T-10 should not be maintained at lower than 1".** Then practice grasscycling. Grasscycling is simply leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and can provide up to 25 percent of the lawn's fertilizer needs. If prolonged rain or other factors prevent frequent mowing and clippings are too plentiful to leave on the lawn, they can be collected and used as mulch. Whatever you do, don't bag them! Grass clippings do not belong in landfills.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet three weeks after the grass turns green. Submit a soil sample to determine nutrient and lime requirements. In the absence of a soil test, use a complete nitrogen phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (for example, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8). To determine the amount of product needed to apply 1 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet, divide 100 by the first number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 16-4-8 fertilizer, divide 100 by 16. The result is 6.25 pounds of product per thousand square feet:  $100/16 = 6.25$ .

#### **IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Bermuda grasses need a weekly application of about 1" of water. On sandy soils it often requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for 3 to 5 hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It requires 640 gallons of water to deliver 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate just until runoff occurs, wait 1/2 hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest problems and environmental stress later in the summer.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass, goosegrass, and foxtail by the time the dogwoods are in full bloom. Apply postemergence herbicides in May as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, and lespedeza. Products containing two or three broadleaf herbicides usually control several different broadleaf weeds in a lawn more effectively. Be sure the product is labeled for use on bermuda grass. Apply postemergence herbicides only when weeds are present, and wait until three weeks after the lawn becomes green.

#### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and control them if necessary.

#### **RENOVATION**

Patch bare areas in May using sod. Keep sod continually moist with light frequent sprinklings several times a day to ensure establishment of newly repaired lawn area.

#### **THATCH REMOVAL**

Vertically mow in May to remove the thatch (layer of undecayed grass) after the lawn becomes green if the thatch is more than 1/2 inch thick.

### JUNE-AUGUST

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#### **MOWING**

Same as the March through May mowing guidelines. Mow the lawn when it first turns green in the spring with a rotary mower set as low as possible without scalping. Mow before the grass gets taller than 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Then practice grasscycling. Grasscycling is simply leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and can provide up to 25 percent of the lawn's fertilizer needs. If prolonged rain or other factors prevent frequent mowing and clippings are too plentiful to leave on the lawn, they can be collected and used as mulch. Whatever you do, don't bag them! Grass clippings do not belong in landfills.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet every 4 to 6 weeks using the March through May fertilizing guidelines.

**IRRIGATION**

Same as the March through May irrigation guidelines. Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. T-10, TifSport and Tifway 419 bermuda grasses need a weekly application of about 1 to 1 1/4 inches of water. On sandy soils it often requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for 3 to 5 hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It requires 640 gallons of water to deliver 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate just until runoff occurs, wait 1/2 hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply postemergence herbicides as needed to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, and lespedeza. Crabgrass, goosegrass, dallisgrass, nutsedge, annual sedges, and sandbur can be controlled with postemergence grass control herbicides. Two or three applications 7 to 10 days apart are required for effective control. Apply herbicides only when weeds are present, the grass is actively growing, and the lawn is not suffering from drought stress.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and control them if necessary. August is the best time to control grubs because they are small and close to the soil surface. If present control them by applying a soapy flush solution.

**THATCH REMOVAL**

Vertically mow to remove the thatch if it is more than 1/2 inch thick. Thatch can be removed monthly if the lawn has sufficient time to recover.

**SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER**

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**MOWING**

Mow the lawn following the March through May guidelines until several weeks before the first expected frost. Raise the mowing height 1/2 inch as winter approaches if the lawn will not be over seeded. Mowing height is usually raised in mid- to late September in the piedmont. Mowing height of lawns in the western and northwestern areas of the piedmont may be raised one to two weeks earlier, whereas mowing height in the south central and southeastern regions may be raised one to two weeks later.

**FERTILIZATION**

Apply no more than 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet in September, four to six weeks before the first expected frost. Use a low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer such as a 5-10-30, or supplement a nitrogen fertilizer source with 1 pound of potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-60), 2 pounds of potassium sulfate (0-0-50), or 5 pounds of sul-po-mag (0-0-22) per thousand square feet. To determine the amount of product required to apply 1 pound of potash per thousand feet, divide 100 by the third number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 6-6-12 fertilizer, divide 100 by 12. The result is 8.3 pounds of product per thousand square feet:  $100/12 = 8.3$ .

**IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Bermuda grasses need a weekly application of about 1" of water. On sandy soils it often requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for 3 to 5 hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It requires 640 gallons of water to deliver 1 inch of water per thousand square feet. Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate just until runoff occurs, wait 1/2 hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Dormant bermuda grass may need to be watered periodically when warm, windy weather prevails.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply preemergence or postemergence herbicides as needed to control winter annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as chickweed and henbit. Preemergence herbicides do not control existing perennial weeds. Apply postemergence herbicides only when weed are present. Do not apply herbicides designed to control annual bluegrass if the lawn is to be over seeded with ryegrass.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and army worms; control them if necessary

**DECEMBER – FEBRUARY**

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**MOWING**

Mow over seeded bermuda grass at 1 inch before the grass gets taller than 1 1/2 inches. Recycle nutrients by not collecting the clippings unless they accumulate heavily on the surface. Dormant bermuda grass that has not been over seeded need not be mowed.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

Do not fertilize bermuda grass that has not been over seeded. For over seeded bermuda grass, apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet in December and February. In the absence of a soil test, use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (for example, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8). To determine the amount of product required to apply 1 pound of potash per thousand feet, divide 100 by the third number in the fertilizer ratio. For example, for a 6-6-12 fertilizer, divide 100 by 12. The result is 8.3 pounds of product per thousand square feet:  
 $100/12 = 8.3$

#### **IRRIGATION**

Dormant bermuda grass may have to be watered periodically to prevent desiccation, especially when warm, windy weather prevails. Watering is particularly important for lawns that have been over seeded.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides as needed to control weed such as chickweed, henbit, and hop clover. Selective herbicides can be applied in November or December to lawns that have not been over seeded to control annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and several winter annual broadleaf weeds.

### ■ TIFBLAIR CENTIPEDE

#### MARCH - MAY

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#### **MOWING**

Mow lawn at 1 inch at time of initial greenup. Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2 inches tall. Do not burn off centipede grass to remove excessive debris because of possible injury to the lawn and potential fire hazard.

#### **FERTILIZATION**

DO NOT apply nitrogen at this time. Yellow appearance may be an indication of iron deficiency. Spray iron (ferrous) sulfate (2 ounces in water per 1,000 sq. ft.) or a chelated iron source to enhance color as needed. Follow label directions.

#### **IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Centipede grasses need a weekly application of about 1" of water. On sandy soils it often requires more frequent watering, for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for 3 to 5 hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It requires 640 gallons of water to deliver 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate just until runoff occurs, wait 1/2 hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark bluish gray color, foot-printing, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest problems and environmental stress later in the summer.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass, goosegrass, and foxtail. Apply by the time that dogwoods are in full bloom. Apply postemergence herbicides in May as needed for control of summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, lespedeza, etc. Do not apply until 3 weeks after greenup. Centipede grass is sensitive to certain herbicides (e.g. 2, 4-D), so follow label directions and use with caution.

#### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and control if necessary.

#### **THATCH REMOVAL**

Power rake (vertical mow) to remove thatch (layer of undecayed grass) in late May if necessary. A 2- or 3-inch blade spacing set 1/4-inch deep in one direction works best. Do not use a power rake with 1-inch blade spacing as severe turf injury may result.

#### **RENOVATION**

Patch bare areas in May using sod. Keep sod continually moist with light frequent sprinklings several times a day to ensure Establishment of newly repaired lawn area.

#### JUNE-AUGUST

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**MOWING**

Same as the mowing guidelines for March through May. Mow lawn at 1". Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2" tall.

**FERTILIZATION**

Fertilize with 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. (once a year) in mid-June using a high potassium fertilizer (e.g., 5-5-15, 6-6-12, 8-8-24). \*An additional fertilization in August may enhance performance in coastal locations. Fertilizers without phosphorus (e.g., 15-0-14, 8-0-24) are preferred if soils exhibit moderate-to-high levels of phosphorus. Yellow appearance may indicate an iron deficiency. Spray iron (ferrous) sulfate (2 ounces in water per 1,000 sq. ft.) or a chelated iron source to enhance color as needed. Follow label directions.

**IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is needed for growing centipede grass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering; i.e., 1/2 inch of water every third day.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply postemergence herbicides as needed for control of summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, such as knotweed, spurge, lespedeza, etc. Centipede grass is sensitive to certain herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D, MSMA), so follow label directions and use with caution. Do not apply herbicides unless grass and weeds are actively growing and lawn is not suffering from drought stress.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and army worms; control if necessary.

*\*To determine amount of product required to apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft., divide 50 by the FIRST number on the fertilizer bag.*

*Example: A 5-5-15 fertilizer. Dividing 50 by 5 = 10 pounds of product to be applied per 1,000 sq. ft. for 1/2 pound of nitrogen.*

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**SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER****MOWING**

Mow lawn at 1 inch. Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2 inches tall. Raise mowing height to 1 1/2 inches several weeks before expected frost.

**FERTILIZATION**

Fertilize with 1 pound of potash (K<sub>2</sub>O) per 1,000 sq. ft. 4 to 6 weeks before expected frost using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-60) or 2 pounds of potassium sulfate (0-0-50).\*\* DO NOT lime centipede grass unless recommended by soil test.

**IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is sufficient for growing centipede grass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering; i.e., 1/2 inch of water every third day. Water following onset of dormancy (browning of foliage) if needed to prevent excessive dehydration.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and army worms; control if necessary.

*\*\*To determine amount of product required to apply 1 pound of potash per 1,000 sq. ft., divide 100 by the THIRD number on the fertilizer bag.*

*Example: A 6-6-12 fertilizer. Dividing 100 by 12 = 8.3 pounds of product to be applied per 1,000 sq. ft. for 1 pound of potassium.*

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**DECEMBER - FEBRUARY****MOWING**

Remove lawn debris (rocks, sticks, and leaves). Do not burn off centipede grass to remove excessive debris because of possible injury to the grass and potential fire hazard.

**FERTILIZATION**

DO NOT fertilize centipede grass at this time. Submit soil samples for analysis every 3 years to determine nutrient requirements. Be sure to specify centipede grass. Apply lime or sulfur if suggested (based on soil test) to raise or reduce soil pH respectively. DO NOT lime centipede grass unless recommended by soil test.

**IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent excessive dehydration.

#### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides as necessary for control of chickweed, henbit, etc. Centipede grass is sensitive to certain herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D), so follow label directions for reducing rates, and use with caution. Selected herbicides (e.g., atrazine or simazine) can be applied in November or December for control of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and several winter annual broadleaf weeds.

### ■ RALEIGH & CAPTIVIA ST. AUGUSTINE

#### MARCH-MAY

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##### **MOWING**

Pick up debris (rocks, sticks, leaves, etc.) from the lawn. Do not burn off St. Augustine grass to remove excessive debris because of possible injury to the lawn and potential fire hazard. Before greenup, mow at 2 ½ inches with a rotary mower to clear off the dead tops of grass leaves. Sharpen the mower blade to prevent damage to the grass plants.

##### **FERTILIZATION**

Fertilize with 1/2 pound of nitrogen (N) per thousand square feet in May or 2 weeks after greenup, whichever is last. Use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (e.g., 12-4-8 or 16-4-8)\* Yellow appearance may indicate an iron deficiency. Spray iron (ferrous) sulfate (2 ounces in water per thousand square feet) or a chelated iron source to enhance color, as needed. Follow label directions.

##### **IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water each week, all at once, if possible. If runoff occurs, stop watering until water is absorbed. Then continue watering. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering: 1/2 inch of water every third day. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest and other problems from occurring late in the summer.

##### **WEED CONTROL**

If crabgrass and goosegrass have been a problem, apply preemergence herbicides by the time dogwoods are in full bloom. Control broadleaf weeds as necessary with postemergence herbicides. St. Augustine grass is sensitive to certain herbicides (e.g., 2, 4-D), so follow label directions and use with caution.

##### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs and control if necessary. Check for chinch bug activity in sunny locations when yellow spots or drought symptoms appear. Push a coffee can (with both top and bottom removed) into the ground and fill it with water. Chinch bugs will float to the surface if present. Only treat if you observe 20 or more chinch bugs per thousand square feet.

##### **DISEASE CONTROL**

Watch for brown patch--circular patches of brown grass up to several feet in diameter. Gray leaf spot may also appear on St. Augustine grass. Control as necessary with proper fungicides. Read the fungicide label and follow directions carefully.

#### JUNE-AUGUST

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##### **MOWING**

Mow lawn at 2 ½ inches. Mow before grass gets above 4 inches. Recycle nutrients by not collecting clippings unless they are unsightly or in clumps.

##### **FERTILIZATION**

Apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet in June and August and 1 pound of nitrogen in July. In absence of a soil test, use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio.

##### **IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water each week, all at once, if possible. If runoff occurs, stop watering until water is absorbed. Then continue watering. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering: 1/2 inch of water every third day. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest and other problems from occurring late in the summer.

##### **DISEASE CONTROL**

Check for gray leaf spot and brown patch.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply postemergence herbicides as needed for control of summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, such as knotweed, spurge, and lespedeza, etc. St. Augustine grass is sensitive to certain herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D and MSMA), so follow label directions and use with caution. Do not apply herbicides unless weeds are actively growing and lawn is not suffering from drought stress. Check for presence of crabgrass and goosegrass to determine if a preemergence herbicide is needed next spring.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for chinch bug activity in sunny locations with yellow to brownish spots or drought conditions appear. Push a coffee can (with top and bottom removed) into ground and fill with water. Chinch bugs will float to surface if present. Treat only if you observe 20 or more chinch bugs per square foot.

**THATCH REMOVAL**

If dethatching is necessary, mow grass to 2 ½ inches and use a power rake with 3 inch blade spacing to dethatch. The best time to check for thatch is late in the summer before dethatching in the following spring. If thatch layer is ¾ inches thick, dethatching is recommended.

**SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER**

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**MOWING**

Mow lawn at 2 1/2 inches. Mow before grass gets above 4 inches.

**FERTILIZATION**

Do not fertilize St. Augustine grass after August 31.

**IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is needed for growing St. Augustine grass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering, i.e. ½ inch of water every third day. Water following the onset of dormancy (browning of foliage) if needed to prevent excessive dehydration.

**WEED CONTROL**

Check for presence of crabgrass and goosegrass to determine if a preemergence herbicide is needed next spring.

**INSECT CONTROL**

Check for chinch bug activity in sunny locations when yellow to brownish spots or drought symptoms appear.

**THATCH REMOVAL**

Check for thatch layer in early September, if thatch layer is ¾ inches thick, plan to dethatch the following spring shortly after greenup.

**DECEMBER-FEBRUARY**

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**MOWING**

Pick up debris (rocks, sticks, leaves, etc.) from lawn. Do not burn off St. Augustine grass to remove excessive debris because of possible injury to the lawn and potential fire hazard.

**FERTILIZATION**

Do not apply fertilizer or lime at this time.

**IRRIGATION**

Water to prevent excessive dehydration.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides for control of chickweed, henbit, etc.

St. Augustine grass is sensitive to certain postemergence herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D), so follow label directions for reducing rates, and use with caution. Selected herbicides (e.g., atrazine and simazine) can be applied in November or December to control annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and several winter annual broadleaf weeds. Read the label and follow directions carefully.

## ■ TALL FESCUE & KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS BLENDS

MARCH – MAY

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### **MOWING**

Mow lawn to 3 inches in height. Mow at least once a week. Mow before grass gets above 5 inches tall. Remember grasscycling—leave clippings on the lawn.

### **FERTILIZATION**

Do not fertilize tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass after March 15.

### **IRRIGATION**

Water as needed to prevent drought. About 1 inch of water per application each week is adequate. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering, or about 1/2 inch of water every third day.

### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass, goosegrass, and foxtail. Apply by the time the dogwoods are in bloom.

### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs in April and May and control if necessary.

### **AERIFICATION**

Delay coring until fall.

### **THATCH REMOVAL**

It is not necessary to remove thatch.

JUNE - AUGUST

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### **MOWING**

Raise mower height to 3 1/2 inches. Mow before the grass gets above 5 inches tall. Remember grasscycling—leave clippings on the lawn.

### **FERTILIZATION**

Do not fertilize tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass at this time. Submit a soil sample for analysis to determine nutrient requirements.

### **IRRIGATION**

Either water as needed to prevent drought or allow the lawn to go dormant. About 1 inch of water per application each week is adequate for irrigated lawns. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering, or about 1/2 inch of water every third day. Do not discontinue irrigation in midsummer.

### **DISEASE CONTROL**

Check for brown patch disease.

### **WEED CONTROL**

Avoid the use of herbicides at this time.

### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for grubs in July and August and control them if necessary.

### **AERIFICATION**

Avoid coring tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass lawns at this time.

### **THATCH REMOVAL**

It is not necessary to remove thatch.

## SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER

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### **MOWING**

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass should be 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches tall after mowing. As a general guideline, try to mow often enough that no more than one-third of the grass height is cut. Then practice grasscycling. Grasscycling is simply leaving grass clippings on your lawn. Grass clippings decompose quickly and can provide up to 25 percent of the lawn's fertilizer needs. If prolonged rain or other factors prevent mowing and clippings are too plentiful to leave on the lawn, they can be collected and used as mulch. Whatever you do, don't bag them! Grass clippings do not belong in landfills.

### **FERTILIZATION**

The best way to determine your lawn's nutrient needs is by a soil test. In the absence of a soil test, use a complete nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio (that is, 12-4-8 or 16-4-8). Fertilize with 1 pound of actual nitrogen (N) per thousand square feet in mid-September and again in November (about the time the grass is green but not actively growing).\*

### **IRRIGATION**

Water to a soil depth of 4 to 6 inches. Probe with a screwdriver to determine moisture depth. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass need a weekly application of about 1 to 1 1/4 inches of water. On sandy soils it often requires more frequent watering—for example, 1/2 inch of water every third day. It is often necessary to irrigate an area for 3 to 5 hours to apply 1 inch of water. (It requires 640 gallons of water to deliver 1 inch of water per thousand square feet.) Because clay soils accept water slowly, irrigate just until runoff occurs, wait 1/2 hour until the water has been absorbed, and then continue irrigating until the desired depth or amount is obtained. A dark bluish gray color, footprinting, and wilted, folded, or curled leaves indicate that it is time to water. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce pest problems and environmental stress later in the summer.

### **WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides to control dandelions and other weeds if necessary.

### **INSECT CONTROL**

Check for white grubs in September and October and control them if necessary.

### **AERIFICATION**

Core lawns subject to heavy traffic or on clay soils to minimize compaction and improve rooting. Break up plugs.

### **RENOVATION**

Piedmont and Coastal Plain Regions Only! Over-seed thin, bare areas as grass begins to respond to cooler temperatures in September and early October. Use a blend of tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass cultivars at 6 pounds per thousand square feet. Apply a starter-type (high phosphorus) fertilizer at time of seeding. Keep the seedbed moist with light, frequent sprinklings several times a day to ensure good germination.

### **THATCH REMOVAL**

It is not necessary to remove thatch.

*\*To determine amount of product required to apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft., divide 50 by the FIRST number on the fertilizer bag.*

*Example: A 5-5-15 fertilizer. Dividing 50 by 5 = 10 pounds of product to be applied per 1,000 sq. ft. for 1/2 pound of nitrogen.*

## DECEMBER-FEBRUARY

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### **MOWING**

Remove lawn debris (rocks, sticks, leaves, etc.). Mow at least 3 inches and remove clipping debris at spring greenup. Mow before grass gets taller than 5 inches. Practice grasscycling – leave clippings in the lawn.

### **FERTILIZATION**

Fertilize with 1 pound of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet in February. In absence of soil test results, use a complete (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-2-1 or 4-1-2 ratio. \*

### **IRRIGATION**

Water, if needed, to prevent excessive drying. About 1 inch of water per application each week is adequate.

**WEED CONTROL**

Apply broadleaf herbicides as necessary for control of chickweed, henbit, or other, weeds.

**AERIFICATION**

Delay coring until fall.

**THATCH REMOVAL**

It is not necessary to remove thatch.

*\*To determine amount of product required to apply 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft., divide 50 by the FIRST number on the fertilizer bag.*

*Example: A 5-5-15 fertilizer. Dividing 50 by 5 = 10 pounds of product to be applied per 1,000 sq. ft. for 1/2 pound of nitrogen.*