

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

## DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

Historical Materials from University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Extension

---

1981

### G81-558 Tall Fescue Lawn Calendar (Revised April 2004)

Terrance P. Riordan

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*, [triordan1@unl.edu](mailto:triordan1@unl.edu)

Roch E. Gaussoin

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*, [rgaussoin1@unl.edu](mailto:rgaussoin1@unl.edu)

John E. Watkins

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*, [jwatkins1@unl.edu](mailto:jwatkins1@unl.edu)

Frederick P. Baxendale

*University of Nebraska - Lincoln*, [fbaxendale1@unl.edu](mailto:fbaxendale1@unl.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>



Part of the [Agriculture Commons](#), and the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#)

---

Riordan, Terrance P.; Gaussoin, Roch E.; Watkins, John E.; and Baxendale, Frederick P., "G81-558 Tall Fescue Lawn Calendar (Revised April 2004)" (1981). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1715.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/1715>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

## Tall Fescue Lawn Calendar

**T. P. Riordan, Turfgrass Plant Breeder**  
**Roch E. Gaussoin, Extension Turfgrass Specialist**  
**John E. Watkins, Extension Plant Pathologist**  
**Fred P. Baxendale, Extension Entomologist**

### MOWING

March 20 to April 10	Clean lawn of debris (i.e. rocks, sticks, etc.) Mow lawn at 2 inches and remove clipping debris.
April 10 to June 15	Mow lawn at 2.5 to 3 inches (2.0-2.5 for dwarf type). Mowing frequency should be dictated by growth rate. Mow at least on a weekly basis when actively growing.
June 15 to August 30	Raise mower height to 3 to 3.5 inches (2.5-3.0 for dwarf type) and maintain mowing frequency.
September 1 to November 15 (or last mowing)	Gradually lower mowing height to 2.5 inches. Mow on a weekly basis.
Alternative Mowing Schedule	To maximize rooting and stress tolerance maintain height at 3.0 to 3.5 inches for the entire growing season.

### FERTILIZING

April 20 to May 10	Fertilize with 1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizer carriers are preferred. Apply combination product with preemergence weed control.
August 20 to August 31	Fertilize with 1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizer carriers are preferred.
October 15 to November 15	Fertilize with 1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizers are preferred.

### WATERING

April to November	Water to prevent wilting and drought. Tall fescue is drought tolerant and can be grown in most years without irrigation.
-------------------	--

### HERBICIDES

April 20 to May 10	Apply preemergence herbicide for crabgrass, goosegrass and foxtail control, if necessary.
May 1 to May 20	Control dandelion and other broadleaf weeds if they are a serious problem. Fall is preferred time for control.
September 20 to October 31	Apply perennial broadleaf weed control if necessary. This is the preferred time for controlling dandelions and clover.

---

## INSECT CONTROL

---

June 15 to June 30	<i>Insects are seldom a problem in tall fescue lawns.</i> Sod webworm and white grubs are occasional problems. Check for sod webworm larvae and control if necessary.
August 1, to September 30	Check for white grubs and control if necessary (see NebGuide <i>G92-1085, White Grubs in Turf</i> ).

---

## DISEASE CONTROL

---

April 1, to June 15	Diseases are seldom a problem. Leafspot susceptibility is often related to early spring fertilization (i.e. March and April) with quick release fertilizer carriers.
June 1 to August 15	Susceptibility to brown patch is often related to heavy shade or overfertilization with nitrogen (see NebGuide <i>G84-688, Brown Patch Disease of Turfgrass</i> ).
August 15 to October 15	Leaf and stem rust may be a problem on susceptible cultivars (see NebGuide <i>G92-1119, Rust Diseases of Turfgrass</i> ).

---

## THATCH REMOVAL

---

Thatch is rarely a problem on tall fescue lawns.

## AERIFICATION

---

April 1 to April 30 and/or September 5 to September 30	Tall fescues are very tolerant to wear, but are susceptible to compaction stress. Aerify lawns that are on clay soil or subject to heavy traffic to minimize compaction and improve rooting.
--	--

---

## OVERSEEDING

---

April 15 to June 15 and/or August 20 to September 20	Overseed tall fescue lawns that have been thinned by winter injury. Use a blend of improved turf-type tall fescue cultivars, and seed at 4 to 6 lbs/1,000 sq. ft. When seeding, use a starter-fertilizer applied at 1.0 lb. N/1,000 sq. ft. Spring overseeding can be accompanied with an application of siduron to prevent crabgrass competition (see current NebFact for cultivars recommended for Nebraska).
--	---

---

**File under: HORTICULTURE  
D-13, Turf**

1981, Revised April 2004, 2,000

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.  
Elbert C. Dickey, Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension educational programs abide with the non-discrimination policies of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
and the United States Department of Agriculture.

© 1981-2004, The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension. All rights reserved.