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G80-517 Kentucky Bluegrass Lawn Calendar (Revised October 1994)

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Kentucky Bluegrass Lawn Calendar

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Mowing	
March 20 to April 10	Clean lawn of debris (i.e. rocks, sticks, etc.). Mow lawn as short as possible and remove clipping debris.
April 10 to June 15	Mow lawn at 2.0 inches. Mowing frequency should be dictated by growth rate, never removing more than one-third the mowing height at any mowing.
June 15 to Aug. 30	Raise mowing height to 2.5 inches.
Sept. 1 to Oct. 15	Lower mowing height to 2.0 inches.
Oct. 15 to Nov. 15 (or last mowing)	Lower mowing height to 1.5 - 1.75 inches.
<i>Alternative Mowing Schedule:</i>	
March 29 to last mowing	Maintain 2.5 inch mowing height throughout season to promote rooting and stress tolerance.
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.
June 11 to July 1	Fertilize with .5-1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.
July to Aug.	Avoid fertilizing.
Sept. 1 to Sept. 15	Fertilize with 1.0 lb. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Slow release fertilizer carriers are preferred.
Oct. 15 to Nov. 15	Fertilize with about 1.5 to 2.0 lbs. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. Phosphorus and potassium can be applied with fall fertilizer formulations.
Watering	
April to Nov.	Water as needed to prevent wilting and drought. About 1.0 inch of water is needed per week in spring and fall, and 1.5 inches per week in summer. Deep water every two to three days. Avoid daily, light watering.
<i>Alternative Watering Schedule:</i>	For water conservation allow turf to go dormant. Irrigate only if sustained drought occurs (> 3 weeks without rain). Lawn will green up with sufficient rainfall in the late summer/early fall.
Herbicides	
April 20 to May 5	Apply preemergent herbicides for crabgrass, goosegrass and foxtail control.
May 1 to May 20	Control dandelion and winter annual broadleaf weeds if they are a problem.
May 25 to June 20	Apply second preemergent herbicide application (i.e., six weeks after initial application) to areas where spotted spurge has been a problem or areas with a history of severe crabgrass infections.
Sept. 15 to Oct. 31	Apply perennial broadleaf weed control. This is the preferred time for controlling dandelion and clover (see NebGuide <i>G91-1045, Lawn Weed Prevention and Management</i>).
Insect Control	
May 10 to May 20	Control adult billbug, particularly on lawns with a history of injury.
June 15 to June 30	Check for sod webworm larvae and control if necessary (see NebGuide <i>G75-231, Sod Webworm</i>).
July 15 to Aug. 15	Check for sod webworm larvae and control if necessary.
Aug. 1 to Sep. 30	Check for white grubs and control if necessary (see NebGuide <i>G92-1085, White Grubs in Turf</i>).
Disease Control	
April 10 to June 15 and Sep. 15 to Oct. 15	Control leafspot on common Kentucky bluegrass lawns. Apply according to label directions (see NebGuide <i>G89-925, Leaf Spot and Melting Out Diseases of Turfgrass</i>).
May 30 to July 30	Apply preventive summer patch control on lawns that have had this problem in the past (see NebGuide <i>G90-970, Summer Patch and Necrotic Ring Spot Diseases of Turfgrasses</i>).
Aug. 15 to Oct. 15	Leaf and stem rust may be a problem on susceptible cultivars (see <i>G92-1119, Rust Diseases of Turfgrass</i>).

Thatch Removal	
April 1 to April 30 and/or Sep. 1 to Sep. 30	Power rake if thatch layer exceeds 0.5 inch (see NebGuide <i>G85-751, Thatch Prevention and Control</i>). Apply leafspot fungicide control to common Kentucky bluegrass lawns after power raking.
Aerification	
April 1 to April 30 and/or Sep. 1 to Oct. 15	Aerify lawns that are on clay soil to minimize compaction and improve rooting.
Overseeding	
April 1 to April 30 and/or Sep. 1 to Oct. 15	Overseed thin Kentucky bluegrass lawns with improved cultivars at .75 to 1.0lb. seed per 1,000 sq. ft. (See current NebFact <i>Recommended Cultivars</i> for current cultivar recommendations.)

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