

Tall Fescue Maintenance Schedule for established lawns in the North Carolina Piedmont region. Modified (7-16-14) Cost are based on 15,000 sq ft.

Between September 15th and October 1st:

- Aerate and overseed
- Use a blend of tall fescue cultivars at 4 pounds per thousand square feet. Keep the seedbed moist to ensure good germination. **COST \$50**
- Mow to 2 1/2 to 3 inches in height when needed.

Between October 1st and October 31st:

- Fertilize using a complete nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium (N-P-K) turf-grade fertilizer (**12-4-8 or 16-4-8**) if you're on a tight budget 10-10-10 is okay 13-13-13 is better. **COST \$35**
- Check for white grubs in October; fall is the ideal time to control white grubs.

Between November 15th and December 15th

Best time to put down Lime, if needed

- Fertilize (**12-4-8 or 16-4-8**) if you're on a tight budget 10-10-10 is okay 13-13-13 is better **COST \$35**

Between February 1st and February 15th

- Apply a Crabgrass preventer (pre-emergent) and fertilizer. Or a Crabgrass preventer with fertilizer in it. Sta-green brand at Lowes is okay. **COST \$45**
- Mow before grass gets taller than 5 inches.

Between March 15th and April 15th

(About the time the dogwoods bloom)

- Apply broadleaf herbicides to control dandelions and other weeds if necessary. ("Spectracide Lawn Weed Killer Plus Crabgrass" works well with a hose end sprayer, or the kind that you attach the hose right to the bottle.) **COST \$7**
- Mow at 3 inches.
- **DO NOT fertilize tall fescue after March 15.**

Between May 1st and May 15th

(or as late as early June)

- Apply crab grass preventer (pre-emergent) to control crabgrass **NO FERTILIZER COST \$17**

Between May 15th and September 15th

- Raise mower height to 3 1/2 to 4 inches.
- **DO NOT** fertilize tall fescue at this time.
- Avoid the use of herbicides at this time.
- **Irrigate when needed**

TOTAL COST OVER THE WHOLE YEAR First year \$189

Years after \$154

This information was modified slightly from the NC state university website:

For more info see:

http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/Maintenance_Calendars.aspx#000017

