



• 1410 W. Pearl St. Room 22 • Granbury, Texas 76048 • Phone # (817)579-3280 • Fax # (817)408-2533

## Hood County Lawn Maintenance Program

J.A. McAfee, Extension Turfgrass Specialist  
Marty Vahlenkamp, County Extension Agent – Agriculture

- Feb. 20 - March 15** If summer weeds have been a problem, apply a preemergent herbicide for the control of annual summer weeds in the lawn. Water the herbicide application in thoroughly as soon as possible.
- March 15 - April 1** In late March to early April scalp bermudagrass, St. Augustine, and Zoysia lawns. Note, make sure you are past the last freeze date before scalping. Once the lawn has been scalped, then start mowing the lawn at the recommended height as soon as the grass starts actively growing. Note, you will have to remove all the clippings when scalping. Do Not send this material to the dump ground. Either compost this yard waste in your own compost pile or send it to another site that has a composting facility. In the spring, mow bermudagrass lawns at 1.0 to 1.5 inches, St. Augustine grass lawns at 2.0 to 2.5 inches and Zoysia grass lawns at 1.0 to 1.5 inches. Note: If you can only mow once per week, raise the cutting heights slightly. It is important to mow the lawn often enough so that you never remove more than 30 to 40 % of the leaf blade.
- March 15 - April 1** A good rule of thumb, is to fertilize grass after you have mowed your grass twice. Fertilize St. Augustine and Bermuda lawns in mid to late April based on soil analysis or with a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer at a rate of 1.0 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. (using a slow release source of nitrogen.) This would be equivalent to 5 pounds of a 21-7-14 or 7 pounds of 15-5-10 per 1,000 sq. ft. Water the lawn thoroughly after applying the fertilizer. If iron chlorosis is a problem; apply iron sulfate, iron chelate or liquid iron. Note: iron will stain surfaces such as wood, concrete, metal, etc. Always follow label directions no matter which source of iron is used.
- April 1-15** Treat lawns with a bait for control of fire ants. If mounds are present in the lawn, treat the mounds with an insecticide 7 to 10 days after the application of the bait.

- May 1 - 15** Fertilize Bermuda grass at 1.0 pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. For St. Augustine grass grown in full sun apply 1.0 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in late May to early June. For all grasses, repeat the March iron application on a monthly basis. Monitor grasses for any disease activity such as brown patch in St. Augustine grass and dollar spot in Bermuda grass. Treat with appropriate fungicide if a disease becomes active in the lawn.
- June 1 - 15** Check lawns for any insect activity. If needed use an appropriately label insecticide. For fire ant mounds use products such as Orthene, or Amdro.
- July 15 - 30** Check lawns for grubs. Use a sharpshooter to remove a one square foot section of sod and examine the sod to a four inch depth. If more than 4 to 5 grubs per square foot are present, treat the lawn with an insecticide such as Ortho Grub-be-Gone or Merit for control of the grubs. Follow label recommendation for control of grubs. The insecticide application must be watered in thoroughly for effective grub control.
- August 1 -15** Fertilize Bermuda grass lawns with 1.0 pound of actual nitrogen Per 1,000 sq. ft.
- September 1** If winter weeds such as henbit have been a problem, apply a preemergent herbicide for the control of annual winter weeds in the lawn. Water the herbicide application in thoroughly as soon as possible.
- September 15 - 30** Monitor St. Augustine grass and zoysia grass lawns for brown patch activity. If brown patch becomes active, treat with Turfcide, or Bayleton for control.
- October 1-15** Fertilize lawns with a 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer at 1.0 pound of actual nitrogen. Repeat iron application if iron chlorosis is a problem.
- November-January** During the dormant stage, water the lawn every 4 to 5 weeks if adequate rainfall does not occur. Conduct soil analysis for fertilizer needs if you have not done so, or if major soil changes have occurred. Measure the lawn so that fertilizers and pesticides may be applied at the recommended rates per 1,000 sq. ft. Always calibrate granular applicators and sprayers prior to applications of fertilizers and pesticides.

Type of Grass	Mowing Settings (inches)	Mow when or before this height (inches)
Common Bermuda	1 to 1.5	2.25
Tif Bermuda	1	1.5
Buffalo	2	3
St. Augustine	2 to 2.5	3
Tall Fescue	2.5	3.75
Zoysia	1 to 1.5	2.25

Fertilizer ratio (NPK)	Fertilizer Analysis	Application Rate – pounds of fertilizer for 1 lb of N per 1,000 sq.ft.
3-1-2	12 – 4 – 8	8
	15 – 5 - 10	7
	21 – 7 – 14	5
4-1-2	16 – 4 – 8	6
	20 – 5 -10	5

**Lawn Notes**

Front Yard - Length \_\_\_\_\_ X Width \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. Foot

Back Yard - Length \_\_\_\_\_ X Width \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. Foot

Additional Yard - Length \_\_\_\_\_ X Width \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. Foot

Additional Yard - Length \_\_\_\_\_ X Width \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. Foot  
= \_\_\_\_\_ Total sq. Foot

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