

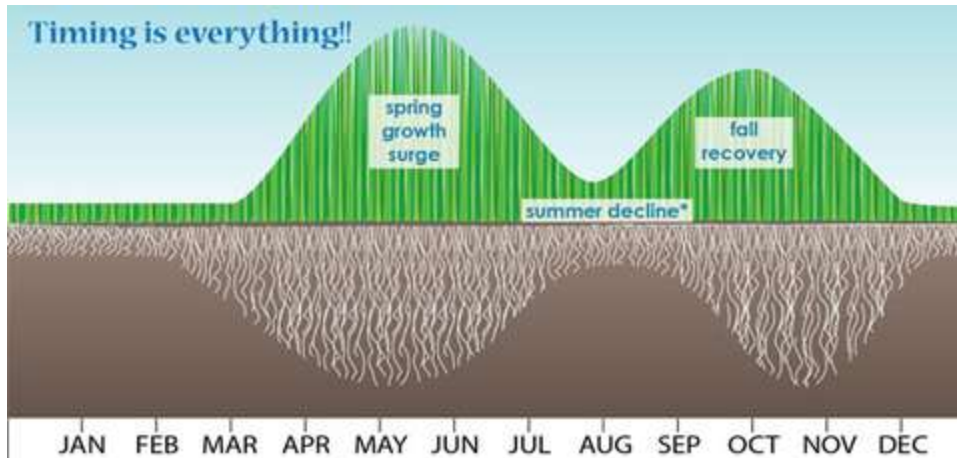


Lawn Care Timeline

It is important to schedule lawn care maintenance during times that match the life cycle of the turfgrass.

Quick facts

- Do not add fertilizer too early in the spring. This may encourage the grass to grow during a time when it should be slow or dormant.
- Do not spray to control weeds when temperatures are warm. This increases the likelihood of damaging the lawn.
- Do not fertilize in hot mid-summer months. This can cause irreversible damage to your lawn.
- Manage how much water you use and water lawns at the right time to keep them healthy.



Cool season turfgrass growth cycle

These grasses endure throughout the seasons because they grow rapidly during spring and fall when temperatures are cool and then become inactive during the heat and drought of summer.

A sustainable lawn care routine should support this natural life cycle of cool season grasses.

Seasonal plant growth cycle

In early spring, roots are long and full of nutrients stored from the fall. Shoots, the part of grass visible above ground, use this stored energy for growth.

In warm summer temperatures, leaf and root growth slow down. Plants rest during times of heat and drought. Roots can be damaged when soil temperatures are above 85°F.

In the fall months shoots start to grow again and nutrients are stored in the long roots for the winter. Optimal shoot growth occurs with air temperatures of 55 to 75°F.

Cool-season root growth is stimulated by soil temperatures above 32°F, and is optimal with soil temperatures between 50 and 65°F.

When to schedule lawn maintenance

It is important to schedule your lawn care maintenance during times that match the life cycle of the turfgrass.

- Do not add fertilizer too early in the spring. This may encourage the grass to grow during a time when it should be slow or dormant.
- Do not spray to control weeds when temperatures are warm. This increases the likelihood of damaging the lawn.
- Do not fertilize in hot mid-summer months. This can cause irreversible damage to your lawn.
- Crabgrass doesn't develop until late spring or early summer, so don't apply herbicide used to prevent pre-emerging crabgrass in the fall.

Minnesota lawn care calendar

What to do	Best time to do it	Okay time to do it
Mowing	Last week of April through early November	
Crabgrass control	Pre-emergence: mid May, <i>before crabgrass comes out of the ground</i>	Post-emergence: mid May to early July, <i>apply to visible crabgrass</i>
Sodding	Early May through June; mid August to late October	Late June to 2nd week of August
Watering	May through late October	
Seeding	Early August to late September; Mid November	May through early June
Fertilizing	Early August through mid October	May through late June
Aerating	Mid August through mid October	Late April through May
Dethatching	Mid August through September	
Broadleaf weed control	September through late October	May through late June

Tips for maintaining a low maintenance lawn

- Set your mower at 3" or higher to promote deeper roots.
- Water only when it is necessary.
- If watering is required, it is best to water between 4am and 8am to reduce water loss due to evaporation.
- Water deeply and infrequently.
 - Depending on soil type and air temperature, lawns need only a quarter inch to one inch of water (minus any rainfall) per week.
 - Sandy soils may need to be watered 2-3 times per week but with less volume each time.
 - Clay soils need to be watered only once per week.
- Install a rain sensor, a soil moisture sensor or a smart irrigation controller as part of your automated sprinkling system to reduce over-watering.
- Use drought tolerant turfgrasses to conserve water.