

Lawn Fertilization Schedules (Clemson University)

Table 4. Lawn fertilization schedules for various turfgrasses and geographical areas in the Southern United States (From *Southern Lawns*).

Lawn grass	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total Yearly N (lbs) per 1000 ft ²
Piedmont and Mountain Areas of the Southern United States (See Notes.)													
Bermudagrass	--	--	N*	--	C	N	N	C	--	N*	--	N*	1-4 (1-6 if overseeded)
Carpetgrass	--	--	--	--	C	--	--	C	--	--	--	--	½-2
Centipedegrass	--	--	--	Fe	C	--	Fe	C	--	--	--	--	1-2
St. Augustinegrass	--	--	--	Fe	C	N ⁺	--	C	Fe	--	--	--	1-3
Tall Fescue	--	C	--	--	--	--	--	--	C	--	C	--	1-3
Zoysiagrass	--	--	N*	--	C	--	N	C	--	--	N*	--	1-3 (1-5 if overseeded)
Coastal Plain, Gulf Coast and North Florida Areas of the Southern United States (see Notes)													
Bahiagrass	--	--	Fe	C	Fe	N	--	C	Fe	--	--	--	1-4
Bermudagrass	--	N*	--	C	N	N	--	C	--	N*	--	N*	1-4 (1-6 if overseeded)
Carpetgrass	--	--	--	C	--	N	--	C	--	--	--	--	½-3
Centipedegrass	--	--	Fe	C	--	Fe	--	C	Fe	--	--	--	½-2
St. Augustinegrass	--	--	--	C	N ⁺	N ⁺	--	C	--	--	--	--	1-4
Zoysiagrass	--	N*	--	C	--	N	--	C	--	N*	--	N*	1-3 (1-5 if overseeded)

C = Apply a complete fertilizer (e.g., 16-4-8 or 12-4-8) at 1.0 lb N/1000 sq ft. for high maintenance lawns or ½ lb N/1000 sq.ft. for low maintenance lawns. An additional potassium application at 1 lb K/1000 sq.ft. in late August through mid-September may increase turfgrass winter hardiness.

N = Water-soluble inorganic nitrogen source (e.g., ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate) is applied at 1.0 lb N/1000 sq ft. for higher maintenance lawns and ½ lb N/1000 sq.ft. for low maintenance lawns.

Fe = apply iron to provide dark green color without stimulating excessive grass growth. Ferrous sulfate (2 oz in 3-5 gal water per 1000 sq ft) or a chelated iron source may be used when temperatures are #80 F and good soil moisture present.

N* = overseeded with ryegrass for winter color. Apply ½ pound N per 1000 square feet

N+ = to reduce chinch bug problems, use a slow-release N source during the summer.

Notes:

- Total yearly nitrogen rates listed per 1000 square feet are suggested guidelines. Actual rates depend on the desire aesthetics and location. Those desiring optimum aesthetics may choose the higher rates. The higher rate range also may be needed for lawns located in sandy soils and/or those with longer growing seasons nearer the coast.
- Fertilizing centipedegrass in excess of 2 lbs N/1000 sq.ft. per year is not normally recommended as this often results in the disease/winter-kill phenomena termed 'centipedegrass decline' due to excessive thatch. Also, once established, centipedegrass should not receive additional phosphorus fertilizer unless soil tests suggest otherwise.
- For northern (cooler) portions of each geographical zone listed, fertilize dates may be 1 to 2 weeks later in spring and 1 to 2 weeks earlier in fall; for southern (warmer) regions of each geographical zone listed, fertilizer dates may be 1 to 2 weeks earlier in spring and 1 to 2 weeks later in the fall than listed.