

Regional Pre-Winter Lawn Care



It's extra important to make sure your lawn is ready to handle cooler weather. Different regions in the U.S. require different levels of care.

This chart will help you create a specialized plan to care for your lawn this season. Be sure to check with your state land grant university extension office about specific dates for applying fertilizer or talk with your lawn care professional.

| Region | State | Recommended Mowing Schedule | Fertilizer Needs | Weed Prevention | Common Weeds | Overseeding |
|---------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Northeast | Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York | Mow weekly throughout the fall, at a slightly lower level than normal. | Fertilize once in early fall and once in late fall. | Use pre-emergent herbicide a month before the first average frost. | Dandelions, violets and crabgrass | Overseed one month before first average frost date. |
| Mid-Atlantic | Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey | Mow for the last time of the season in November. Lower the cutting deck of your lawn mower to 2 inches. | Fertilize by mid-September. | Apply a liquid broadleaf herbicide before November. | Charlie, dandelion, burdock and curly dock | Use seeds specific to your growing climate after aerating. Use a hand spreader for smaller areas and a lawn spreader for larger areas. |
| Southwest | Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma | Continue to mow less frequently throughout the fall. | Fertilize once in early fall and once in late fall. | Use a pre-emergent herbicide in mid-October to mid-November. | Black medic, bull thistle, dandelion, foxtail, grass burr, ragweed, and spurge | Overseed with annual ryegrass. |
| Midwest | Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan | Continue to mow throughout the fall. | Fertilize once in early fall and once in late fall. | Apply a broadleaf pre-emergent herbicide in late fall. | Deadnettle, henbit, chickweed, annual bluegrass, prickly lettuce, Persian speedwell, horseweed, cheatgrass, rabbitfoot clover, and wild mustards | Overseed one month before first average frost date. |
| Mountain West | Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho | Continue to mow needed throughout the fall, as needed. | Fertilize once in early fall and once in late fall. | Apply mulch and pre-emergent herbicide in the fall. | Barnyard grass, lambsquarters, horseweed, marsh cudweed, and pigweeds | Overseed one month before first average frost date. |
| Pacific Northwest | Northern California, Oregon, Washington | Before mowing, allow grass to grow no more than 3 inches tall. Continue to mow through the fall. | Fertilize once in early fall and once in late fall. | Use mulch and pre-emergent herbicide in early fall. | Annual bluegrass, bittercress, bristly hawksbeard, bull thistle, chickweed, creeping woodsorrel and dandelion | Overseed one month before first average frost date. |
| Southern California | | Continue to mow throughout the fall. | Fertilize in late fall or early winter. Cool-season lawns prefer average amount of nitrogen and extra potassium. | Apply pre-emergent herbicide from mid-October to mid-November | Dandelion, spotted spurge and clovers | Overseed with annual ryegrass. |
| South | North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama | Continue to mow throughout the fall. | Fertilize cool-season lawns with quality fertilizer that contains timed-release nitrogen to prevent burn. This will continuously feed your lawn until come spring. | Use pre-emergent herbicide from mid-October to mid-November. | Chickweed, henbit, lawn burweed, large hop clover knawel and parley-piert | Overseed with annual ryegrass. |