

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 wburweed, large hop clover knawel and parley-piert	Overseed with annual ryegrass.