

Kentucky Bluegrass Management Calendar

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This calendar is a basic guide to Kentucky bluegrass management in Nebraska and much of the Great Plains. Different locations and weather conditions within the region may alter dates by three weeks or more.

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Fertilization</i>	<i>Cultural practices</i>	<i>Pest control</i>	<i>Notes</i>
April		Begin mowing as needed.		Mow at 3.0 to 3.5 inches as needed to avoid removing more than 1/3 of the leaf blade. Mow at this height throughout the year.
April 15 - May 1			Apply preemergence herbicide for crabgrass control.	Most preemergence herbicides are only available with N as the carrier. Try to limit N rate to 0.75 lb N/1,000 sq ft and use products containing 25 to 50% slow release N*.
May			Treat for billbugs if history dictates.	Watch for adult billbug feeding symptoms or activity in full sun near sidewalks. Treat if damage is seen and/or if history of billbug damage.
May 1 - June 15			Treat for summer patch if history dictates.	Once 2-inch soil temperatures reach 65°F, apply summer patch fungicides if lawn has a history of summer patch. Repeat application 4 weeks later.
May 1 - June 1	0.75-1.0 lb N/1,000 sq ft			Apply nitrogen only if not applied earlier in the spring, and use products containing 25 to 50% slow release N*.
June through September		Irrigate to prevent drought stress.		Kentucky bluegrass is more drought tolerant than most homeowners suspect, so requires infrequent irrigation.
June through September			Scout for dollar spot.	Dollar spot is favored by warm, humid weather with cool nights (60°F to 85°F temperature range for activity). Dollar spot can usually be minimized in homelawns by increasing annual nitrogen rate by increasing N applied in the fall. Fungicides are not usually recommended on lawns except only in extreme cases.