



TIPS FOR ST. AUGUSTINE CARE

New Sod

- ❖ **Mowing:** Do not mow for 21-30 days until new sod is well rooted then refer to your monthly guide.
- ❖ **Fertilization:** DO NOT FERTILIZE NEW SOD FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS!!!
- ❖ **Irrigation:** During the first 30 days, you will be watering the sod at least once each day keeping in mind not to oversaturate the sod. From 30-60 days you will water 3 times a week. After 60 days you will revert back to your approved watering schedule per county regulations.
- ❖ **Weed Control:** DO NOT APPLY ANY PRE-EMERGANT HERBICIDES to new sod for at least 3 months. Pre-emergent herbicides retard new root growth and can severely damage the new sod rooting into your yard.
- ❖ **Insect Control:** You may apply insecticide anytime after new lawn is installed. If you are replacing your lawn because of prior insect damage, it is highly recommended to apply an insecticide immediately following installation.
- ❖ **Disease/Fungus Control:** Between the months of May-November it is required to apply a fungicide to your Saint Augustine sod immediately to prevent fungus growth. Because of the high amount of watering required to establish new sod, fungus growth during these months is HIGHLY LIKELY if you do not apply a fungicide immediately.

February- May

- ❖ **Mowing:** Mow at least 3" or at the highest setting. Never mow more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade in one mowing. Mowing too low encourages shallow rooting which is less tolerant to environmental stressors.
- ❖ **Fertilization:** 2 weeks following spring regrowth (around March) apply a complete fertilizer such as 16-4-8 at the rate of 6.25lb per 1,000sqft. For high maintenance lawns you may apply an additional nitrogen fertilizer in May at the rate of 1lb per 1,000sqft. Too much nitrogen encourages disease so be careful not to over-fertilize! If soil is high in pH, an iron deficiency may be present. A spray application of ferrous sulfate can be applied every 6 weeks to keep the lawn healthy and a deep green color.
- ❖ **Irrigation:** $\frac{3}{4}$ " per watering
- ❖ **Weed Control:** The best weed control is a healthy & properly maintained lawn. Apply a PRE-EMERGANT herbicide around the 1st of March. TIMING IS CRITICAL! Pre-emergent herbicides will not control weeds which are actively growing; it controls weeds which have not yet emerged from their seeds. In May you will apply a POST-EMERGENT as needed for broadleaf weeds. DO NOT APPLY post-emergents if the temperatures are consistently higher than 85°.
- ❖ **Insect Control:** BE PROACTIVE! Apply a preventative treatment for chinch bugs. Chinch bugs are often not observed until there is already irreversible damage done to the lawn.

June-August

- ❖ **Mowing:** Mow at least 3" high. Be sure that the mower blades are always sharp as to not rip or tear the blades as it cuts. Mowing with dull blades stresses the plant and increases chances of disease. Never mow more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade in one mowing.
- ❖ **Fertilization:** Apply a slow-release nitrogen as needed. Using an iron source is an alternative to nitrogen. Too much nitrogen encourages overgrowth which encourages chinch bugs. Iron applications can be done every 6 weeks to maintain a deep green color and avoid yellowing.
- ❖ **Irrigation:** $\frac{3}{4}$ " per watering
- ❖ **Weed Control:** It is too hot to apply post-emergent herbicides. Applying during this time could result in severe turf injury. Read the fine print on your fertilizers to ensure that it does not include a post-emergent herbicide.
- ❖ **Insect Control:** Apply an insecticide for summer swarms as needed at the first sign of insect damage. (sod webworms, grubs, army worms, etc.)
- ❖ **Disease/ Fungus Control:** BE PROACTIVE! Apply a preventative dosage of fungicide to your lawn. Depending on how wet the season is, you may need to do this several times throughout the year.

September-November

- ❖ **Mowing:** Continue mowing at specific height, mowing no more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade in one mowing. You may decrease the frequency at which the lawn needs mowed as the lawn begins to grow more slowly.
- ❖ **Fertilization:** Apply a complete fertilizer such as 16-4-8 in September. One month prior to the first expected frost, an application of potassium can be applied. DO NOT APPLY POTASSIUM DURING HOT TIMES! Irrigate after application to prevent burning.
- ❖ **Irrigation:** Continue irrigating to prevent drought stress at $\frac{3}{4}$ " per watering
- ❖ **Insect Control:** Apply an insecticide as needed. This is a good time to apply a preventative treatment for chinch bugs.
- ❖ **Disease/Fungus Control:** Do not over irrigate during these times as it will encourage fungal growth and diseased lawns.

December- February

- ❖ **Mowing:** Mow as needed making sure not to mow more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade in one mowing.
- ❖ **Fertilization:** DO NOT FERTILIZE during these months.
- ❖ **Irrigation:** Continue irrigating to prevent drought stress at $\frac{3}{4}$ " per watering (you may need to water less frequently during drier months as opposed to summer months)
- ❖ **Weed Control:** Apply a broadleaf herbicide for weed control. Make sure that you are following the labeled instructions and use with caution.



SCAN THESE CODES WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA

FOR MORE FREE RESOURCES!



*SCAN THIS CODE FOR
ACCESS TO THE FULL
ARTICLE FROM UF IFAS*