



NORTH CAROLINA LAWN SEEDING CALENDAR

Month-by-month timing for local soil, grass type, and seeding conditions

COASTAL PLAIN

YOUR REGION AT A GLANCE

PRIMARY WINDOW Warm-season seed: May-June	SECONDARY WINDOW Tall fescue repair: September-October	REGIONAL NOTE Watch soil temperature closely; coastal sites warm earlier and stay warm longer.
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MONTH-BY-MONTH CALENDAR

MONTH	WHAT TO DO
January-February	Dormant season. Plan your renovation and order a soil test kit from your county extension office.
March	Soil test sampling. Apply lime if the test calls for it. Do not seed.
April	Core aerate if soil isn't too wet. Late April: start soil prep for warm-season seeding.
May	*Seed Bermuda, zoysia, or centipede once soil hits 65 F. Water lightly, 3-4 times daily.
June	Keep up light, frequent watering. Apply starter fertilizer if you haven't already. First mow once grass reaches 3 inches.
July-August	Mow established lawns weekly. Water deeply, 1-2 times per week. Do not seed.
September	If you have a warm-season lawn, skip overseeding with fescue - stick to one grass type. If you have fescue, this is your seeding month.
October	*Prime tall fescue window. Aerate, seed, top-dress, and start your watering regimen.
November	Final mow of fescue at 3 inches. Cut back watering as temperatures drop.
December	Dormant. Clean and store your equipment.

COASTAL REMINDER	Warm-season grass can establish earlier here, but do not rush seed before soil temperatures are consistently warm.
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PIEDMONT

YOUR REGION AT A GLANCE

PRIMARY WINDOW Tall fescue seed: September-mid October	SECONDARY WINDOW Warm-season seed: June, once soil reaches 65 F	REGIONAL NOTE For most Piedmont fescue lawns, fall renovation is the main annual reset.
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MONTH-BY-MONTH CALENDAR

MONTH	WHAT TO DO
January-February	Order your soil test. Browse NC State's recommended cultivar list while you wait for results.
March	Soil test sampling. Apply lime if needed. Do not seed.
April	Core aerate once the ground is dry enough. Dethatch if the layer exceeds 1/2 inch. This is also when liquid aeration becomes an option if compaction is heavy and core aeration alone isn't cutting it.
May	Not a seeding month for fescue. If you must seed in spring, do it very early and plan to water all summer.
June	*Seed Bermuda or zoysia, if desired, once soil hits 65 F. Water frequently.
July-August	Maintain existing lawns. Mow fescue at 3.5 inches. Water deeply, not daily.
September	*Fescue seeding window opens. Aerate, seed, top-dress with compost, and start light watering.
October	*Keep seeding fescue through mid-October. Apply starter fertilizer at seeding. First mow once grass reaches 3.5 inches.
November	Final mow. Cut back watering. Apply a winterizer (low nitrogen, high potassium) to fescue after the last mow.
December	Dormant. Plan next year's maintenance.

PIEDMONT REMINDER	For thin tall fescue, prioritize seed-to-soil contact in September before the fall window narrows.
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MOUNTAINS

YOUR REGION AT A GLANCE

PRIMARY WINDOW Tall fescue seed: September, ideally by mid-month	SECONDARY WINDOW Early October can work if soil temperatures stay warm	REGIONAL NOTE Elevation changes timing. The higher your site, the earlier you should complete fall seeding.
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MONTH-BY-MONTH CALENDAR

MONTH	WHAT TO DO
January-February	Order your soil test. Research cold-tolerant fescue cultivars.
March	Soil test sampling. Apply lime. Do not seed.
April	Core aerate. Dethatch if needed. Prep the soil for seeding season.
May	Not a seeding month. Spot-treat weeds with a post-emergent if needed, but hold off if you're seeding soon.
June-August	Maintain existing lawns. Mow fescue at 3 inches. Water during dry spells.
September	*Prime seeding window. Finish seeding by mid-September. Aerate, seed, top-dress, and water.
October	Early October still works if soil temperatures hold warm. Apply starter fertilizer. First mow.
November	Final mow. Apply winterizer. Cut back watering.
December	Dormant.

MOUNTAIN REMINDER	Do not delay your fall renovation. Young fescue needs enough mild weather to establish before winter.
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