

## St. Augustine Turf Calendar by Erin Harlow

---

### St. Augustine Turfgrass

- St. Augustine is the most popular grass for North Florida lawns. It is slightly salt, shade, and wear tolerant and creates a carpet affect when properly maintained.
- Popular cultivars include: Floratam, Bitterblue, Classic, Palmetto, and Seville.
- Shade: St. Augustinegrass needs a minimum of about five hours of sunlight to do well. Floratam requires the most sunlight and does the best in about eight hours of sunlight.
- Soil pH: St. Augustinegrass prefers a soil pH around 6.5.



Photo Credit: UF

### Resources:

- Homeowner's Guide to Fungicides for Lawn and Landscape Disease Management - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp154>
- Turfgrass Disease Management - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040>
- Weed Management in Home Lawns - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep141>
- Southern Chinch Bug management on St. Augustinegrass - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh036>
- Fertilization and Irrigation Needs for Florida Lawns and Landscape - <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep110>

### St. Augustine Turf Program



Photo Credit: UF

- The program recommended in this fact sheet is based on granular applications and recommended for turf that has a low - moderate maintenance need by homeowners.
- This program should not be compared to a commercial lawn service as programs can vary depending on application method, rate, equipment, and goals.
- The major goal for the program should include healthy shoot and root development. This is achieved through a proper irrigation and fertilizer program.

This calendar is based on recommendations from the University of Florida/IFAS. They are meant as guidelines and cannot apply to every situation. Homeowners should refer to the resources in this publication and their Extension Office for specific situations.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>FERTILIZER</b>												
Fertilize with a complete fertilizer (NPK) after the chance of last frost, preferably with micronutrients and slow release potassium. A 2:1 or 1:1 ratio of nitrogen to potassium is the recommended. Use no more than 4 lbs of nitrogen a year per 1,000 sq ft and no more than 1 lb of nitrogen per application.												
Apply slow release nitrogen.												
Apply iron with or without a micronutrient mix herbicides												
<b>HERBICIDES</b>												
Apply pre-emergence herbicide when soil temps reach 65 °F (usually around March 1st or when air temp reaches the 70s for several days). Time the second application 60 days or according to label after 1st application.												
Apply post-emergence herbicide treatments as needed when temperatures are in appropriate range - read the label. Usually below 90°F and above 40°F . Spot treat only during summer and winter when grass is stressed.												
<b>INSECTS</b>												
Chinch bug treatment (rotate products; chinch bugs may become resistant to pyrethroid).												
Chinch bug treatment (if needed - spot treat)												
Fall armyworms active (treat if necessary)												
Tropical sod webworms active (treat if necessary)												
<b>DISEASES</b>												
Grey leaf spot most likely to be active (treat if necessary)												
Pythium root rot can be active (treat if necessary)												
Large patch most likely to be active (treat if necessary; preventative treatments in Feb and Oct)												
Take-all root rot most likely to be active (treat if necessary)												
<b>IRRIGATION AND MAINTENANCE</b>												
Adjust and calibrate irrigation system.												
Install sod, core aerate, or verticut if necessary .												
Service equipment - mowers, edgers, etc.												
Complete soil test and adjust fertilizer as needed.												

This fact sheet is jointly sponsored by the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, Nick Place, Dean; City of Jacksonville, Alvin Brown, Mayor; and the Duval County Cooperative Extension Service, Mike Sweat, Director.