

Pennsylvania Natural Lawn Care Calendar

Your Monthly Guide to Chemical-Free Lawn Success

Turf N Surf Lawn and Pool LLC

Professional Natural Lawn Care Services

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Welcome to Natural Lawn Care!

This comprehensive calendar provides Pennsylvania homeowners with month-by-month guidance for maintaining a beautiful, chemical-free lawn. Our timing recommendations are specifically calibrated for Pennsylvania's climate zones (USDA Zones 5b-7a), with special attention to Lancaster County conditions.

■ KEY PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL LAWN CARE	
Feed the Soil	Build organic matter to 5-10% for natural fertility
Mow High	Keep grass 3-3.5 inches tall to shade out weeds
Water Deep	1-1.5 inches weekly encourages deep roots
Choose Native	Select grass types suited to PA climate
Be Patient	Natural transitions take 2-3 seasons

■ SPRING LAWN CARE

March - April - May

EARLY SPRING - MARCH

Task	Timing	Details
Soil Testing	Early March	Test pH and nutrients when soil thaws. Target pH 6.5-7.0
Cleanup	Mid-March	Remove winter debris, sticks, and leaves gently
Equipment Prep	Late March	Sharpen mower blades, service equipment
Spot Seeding	Late March	Repair winter damage with quality seed mix

MID-SPRING - APRIL

Task	Timing	Details
First Mowing	When grass reaches 4.5"	Cut to 3-3.5", never remove more than 1/3
Pre-Emergent	Forsythia bloom	Apply corn gluten meal for natural weed prevention
Topdressing	Mid-April	Apply 1/4" compost to entire lawn
Overseeding	Late April	Cool-season grasses germinate best 60-75°F
Aeration	When soil is moist	Core aerate compacted areas only if needed

LATE SPRING - MAY

Task	Timing	Details
Regular Mowing	Weekly	Maintain 3-3.5" height, leave clippings
Organic Fertilizer	Early May	Apply slow-release organic fertilizer
Grub Prevention	Mid-May	Apply beneficial nematodes for natural control
Spot Weeding	As needed	Hand-pull weeds before they seed
Watering Schedule	Begin if dry	1-1.5" weekly, morning only

■ ■ SUMMER LAWN CARE

June - July - August

EARLY SUMMER - JUNE

Task	Timing	Details
Mowing Height	Increase to 3.5-4"	Higher cut helps grass survive heat stress
Deep Watering	Weekly if <1" rain	Water deeply early morning, 4-8 AM
Compost Tea	Every 2-3 weeks	Apply to boost beneficial microbes
Disease Watch	Monitor daily	Look for brown patch, dollar spot
Sharp Blades	Monthly sharpening	Clean cuts prevent disease entry

MID-SUMMER - JULY

Task	Timing	Details
Summer Stress	Monitor closely	Let grass go dormant if drought persists
Minimal Mowing	As needed	Reduce frequency during dormancy
NO Fertilizer	Skip this month	Fertilizing stressed grass causes damage
Spot Treatment	Early morning	Hand water stressed areas only
Pest Monitoring	Weekly inspection	Check for chinch bugs, sod webworms

LATE SUMMER - AUGUST

Task	Timing	Details
Fall Prep Begins	Late August	Order seed and organic amendments
Dethatching Check	Mid-August	If thatch >1/2", plan fall dethatching
Resume Regular Care	As temps drop	Gradually increase mowing frequency
Soil Test #2	Late August	Retest to plan fall amendments
Weed ID	Document weeds	Plan targeted fall treatment strategy

■ FALL LAWN CARE

September - October - November

MOST IMPORTANT SEASON FOR LAWN HEALTH!

EARLY FALL - SEPTEMBER

Task	Timing	Details
Core Aeration	Early September	Best time! Relieves compaction for root growth
Overseeding	Immediately after aeration	Use quality seed blend for PA climate
Dethatching	If needed only	Only if thatch exceeds 1/2 inch
Fall Fertilizer	Mid-September	Organic slow-release for root development
Topdressing	After overseeding	1/4" compost helps seed germination

MID-FALL - OCTOBER

Task	Timing	Details
Leaf Management	Weekly	Mulch leaves with mower, don't let them mat
Continue Mowing	Until growth stops	Maintain 3" height through fall
pH Adjustment	Early October	Apply lime if pH below 6.5
Final Fertilization	Mid-October	Last organic feeding before winter
Broadleaf Weeds	Spot treat only	Hand-pull or spot-spray with organic solution

LATE FALL - NOVEMBER

Task	Timing	Details
Final Mowing	Before dormancy	Lower to 2.5" for last cut only
Leaf Removal	Before snow	Don't leave thick mat over winter
Equipment Storage	After last mow	Clean, sharpen, winterize equipment
Plan Next Year	Thanksgiving week	Review successes and plan improvements
Edge Cleanup	Before freeze	Define edges for clean spring start



WINTER LAWN CARE

December - January - February

Winter is your lawn's dormant season and your planning season. While the grass rests, use this time to maintain equipment, research improvements, and prepare for spring success.

Task	Timing	Details
Stay Off Frozen Grass	All winter	Walking on frozen grass causes crown damage
Snow Mold Prevention	No snow piles	Distribute snow evenly, avoid large piles
Equipment Maintenance	January	Service mower, sharpen blades, replace filters
Education	Winter months	Read about organic techniques, attend workshops
Order Supplies	February	Order seed, organic amendments for spring
Plan Improvements	February	Design garden beds, plan irrigation updates
Monitor Drainage	During thaws	Note problem areas for spring correction

■ DETAILED TASK GUIDES

CORE AERATION

When: Early September (best) or April (if needed)

Conditions: Soil should be moist but not soggy

Frequency: Once per year for clay soils, every 2-3 years for loamy soils

Pattern: Make 2-3 passes in different directions

Depth: 2-3 inch plugs, 2-4 inches apart

After Care: Leave plugs to decompose, overseed immediately, topdress with compost

Pro Tip: Mark sprinkler heads and shallow utilities before aerating!

OVERSEEDING

Best Time: September 1-15 (fall is 3x better than spring!)

Seed Selection: PA blend - 40% Tall Fescue, 30% Perennial Rye, 30% Kentucky Blue

Rate: 4-6 lbs per 1,000 sq ft for overseeding, 8-10 lbs for renovation

Preparation: Mow short (2"), dethatch if needed, aerate first

Application: Use broadcast spreader in two directions

Watering: Light frequent watering 2-3x daily until germination

First Mow: When new grass reaches 4 inches

DETHATCHING

Check First: Only dethatch if thatch layer exceeds 1/2 inch

Best Time: Early September or late April

Method: Power rake or vertical mower for best results

Settings: Blades should just touch soil surface

Pattern: Make perpendicular passes for thorough removal

Cleanup: Rake and remove all debris immediately

Natural Prevention: Regular aeration and topdressing prevents thatch buildup

ORGANIC FERTILIZATION SCHEDULE

Early Spring (April): Corn gluten meal - 20 lbs/1,000 sq ft

Late Spring (May): Compost topdressing - 1/4 inch layer

Early Summer (June): Compost tea - spray every 2-3 weeks

Late Summer: SKIP - grass is stressed

Early Fall (September): Organic 4-3-3 fertilizer - follow bag rates

Late Fall (October): Final feeding with slow-release organic

Soil Amendments: Based on soil test - lime for pH, gypsum for clay

NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS

Problem	Natural Solution	Prevention
Crabgrass	Corn gluten meal in early spring, hand-pull, overseed in fall	Maintain 3"+ height, thick turf
Dandelions	Hand-pull with tool when soil is moist, spot spray vinegar	Deep water, proper pH 6.5-7
Grubs	Beneficial nematodes in May, milky spore disease	Healthy soil, encourage birds
Brown Patch	Improve drainage, reduce nitrogen, increase air flow	Water morning only, sharp blades
Bare Spots	Topdress with compost, overseed, keep moist	Reduce traffic, improve drainage
Moss	Improve drainage and sun, adjust pH, aerate	Prune trees, correct soil pH
Compaction	Core aerate annually, topdress with compost	Minimize traffic when wet
Thatch	Topdress with compost, aerate, add microbes	Avoid synthetic fertilizers

BEST GRASS TYPES FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's transitional climate supports cool-season grasses that thrive in our spring and fall while tolerating summer heat. Choose the right mix for your specific conditions.

Grass Type	Best Use	Characteristics
Tall Fescue	Full sun to partial shade	Deep roots, drought tolerant, stays green in summer
Perennial Ryegrass	High traffic areas	Quick germination, wear tolerant, great for overseeding
Kentucky Bluegrass	Full sun lawns	Self-repairs, beautiful color, requires more water
Fine Fescue	Shade areas	Low maintenance, shade tolerant, doesn't like traffic
PA Premium Mix	Best overall	40% Tall Fescue, 30% Rye, 30% KBG - ideal balance

WATERING WISDOM

Season	Amount	Frequency	Best Time
Spring	1" weekly	1-2x per week	4-8 AM
Summer	1.5" weekly	Deep weekly or let dormant	4-6 AM
Fall	1" weekly	As needed with rainfall	6-10 AM
Winter	None	Grass is dormant	N/A

■ RECOMMENDED NATURAL PRODUCTS

Product	Purpose	Application Rate	When to Apply
Corn Gluten Meal	Pre-emergent weed control	20 lbs/1,000 sq ft	Early spring
Compost	Soil building	1/4-1/2" layer	Spring & fall
Compost Tea	Beneficial microbes	Spray coverage	Every 2-3 weeks growing season
Milorganite	Slow-release fertilizer	32 lbs/2,500 sq ft	4x per year
Alfalfa Pellets	Natural nitrogen	20 lbs/1,000 sq ft	Late spring
Kelp Meal	Trace minerals	10 lbs/1,000 sq ft	Spring or fall
Beneficial Nematodes	Grub control	Per package directions	May & August
Lime	Raise pH	Based on soil test	Fall best, spring ok
Gypsum	Clay soil improvement	40 lbs/1,000 sq ft	Anytime
Iron Supplement	Green without growth	Per package	Summer if needed

■ QUICK REFERENCE - YEAR AT A GLANCE

Month	Primary Tasks	Mowing Height	Key Focus
JAN	Equipment maintenance, planning	Dormant	Rest & Plan
FEB	Order supplies, sharpen blades	Dormant	Preparation
MAR	Soil test, cleanup, spot seed	Dormant	Wake Up
APR	First mow, pre-emergent, overseed	3-3.5"	Spring Growth
MAY	Regular mowing, organic fertilizer	3-3.5"	Establishment
JUN	Raise height, monitor water	3.5-4"	Heat Management
JUL	Minimal care, let dormant if needed	3.5-4"	Survival Mode
AUG	Resume care, plan fall renovation	3.5"	Recovery
SEP	AERATE, OVERSEED, fertilize	3"	RENOVATION
OCT	Leaf management, final fertilizer	3"	Root Growth
NOV	Final mow at 2.5", cleanup	2.5" final	Winter Prep
DEC	Stay off frozen grass	Dormant	Protection

■ LET US HELP YOU GO NATURAL!

Ready to transform your lawn naturally but want professional help?
Turf N Surf LLC offers complete organic lawn care services tailored to Pennsylvania lawns.

OUR NATURAL LAWN CARE SERVICES

- ✓ Organic Fertilization Programs
- ✓ Core Aeration & Overseeding
- ✓ Natural Pest & Disease Management
- ✓ Soil Testing & Amendment Plans
- ✓ Compost Topdressing
- ✓ Professional Mowing with Mulching
- ✓ Spring & Fall Renovations
- ✓ Custom Organic Treatment Plans

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW NATURAL LAWN CARE CUSTOMERS

20% OFF First Organic Application + FREE Soil Test (\$75 Value)

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Thank You for Choosing Natural Lawn Care!

Every lawn we convert to organic practices helps protect our local watershed, creates habitat for beneficial insects, and makes our community safer for children and pets.

Together, we're growing a greener, healthier Pennsylvania!

Turf N Surf Lawn and Pool LLC
Professional Natural Lawn Care Since 2021
Elizabethtown, PA | Lancaster County

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