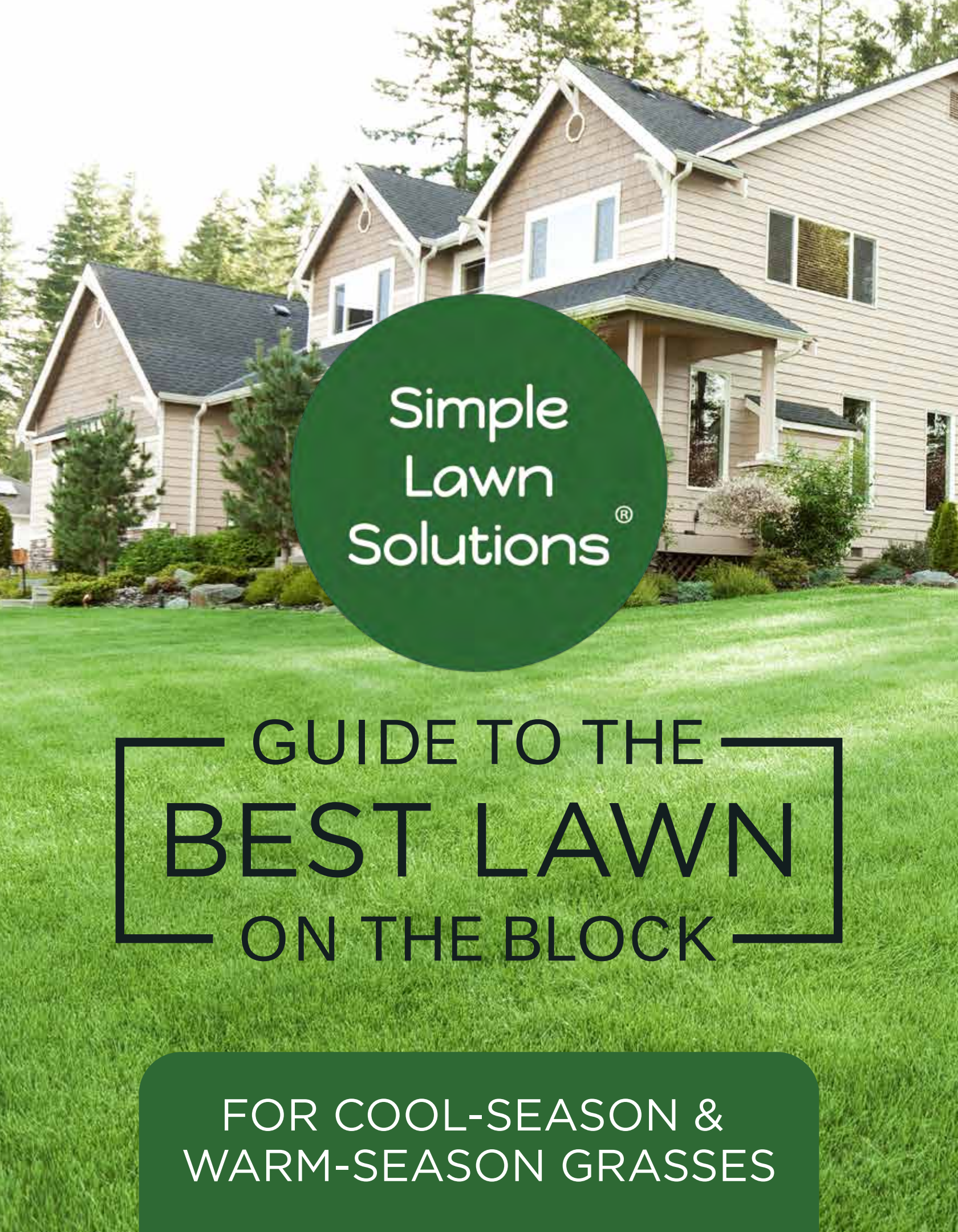


Simple Lawn Solutions®

GUIDE TO THE BEST LAWN ON THE BLOCK

FOR COOL-SEASON & WARM-SEASON GRASSES

Disclaimer:

This guide was developed with basic lawn care principles in mind by our team at Simple Lawn Solutions. All customer results will vary based on a variety of factors. When applying any product, please follow the guidelines outlined on the labels. Keep in mind that regulatory bodies will often request that we change/update label information, please reach out to us at ***hello@simplelawnsolutions.com*** with any label questions or concerns.

Please also note that depending on your location, your city, county, or state may have specific guidelines in regards to regulations of the use of certain fertilizers and other agricultural products. It is your responsibility to check with your local agriculture extension to make sure your lawn care practices are adhering to all rules and regulations, despite what recommendations are made in this guide.

Table of Contents

Intro 4

Grass Types 5

Climate Zones 8

Soil Tests 10

Aeration 13

Lawn Fertilizer Plans 17

Seeding 21

Watering 25

Introduction

Our family began as farmers in Canada before opening their first commercial manufacturing facility in 1993. Since then, we have been perfecting our formulations for commercial lawn and agricultural applications. In 2015, we decided to bring these products to retail, allowing millions of consumers access to professional quality lawn products. Our goal is to make lawn care more accessible to the public-and to keep it simple!

In this guide, we will go over everything you need to know about lawn care. We will cover topics surrounding grass types, soil health, lawn fertilizer plans, aeration, seeding, watering, and more!

We hope that you enjoy reading this guide just as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Grass Types

Did you know that the grass family is the third largest family of flowering plants, with over 500 genera and 10,000 species? However, despite the vastness of this plant family only 30% are used in turf grass applications. Each grass type comes with its own set of characteristics, and grass types are divided into 2 main groups of Warm-Season Grasses and Cool-Season Grasses.

Warm-Season Grasses and Cool Season Grasses

Warm-Season Grasses grow best in temperatures between 80º and 95º F. These grass types will turn brown if temperatures reach below 50º F for an extended period of time, signifying that the grass is dormant, and will return from dormancy once temperatures warm.

Cool Season Grasses grow best in temperatures between 60º and 75º F. These grass types are not tolerant of heat, and may experience dormancy during the heat of the summer.

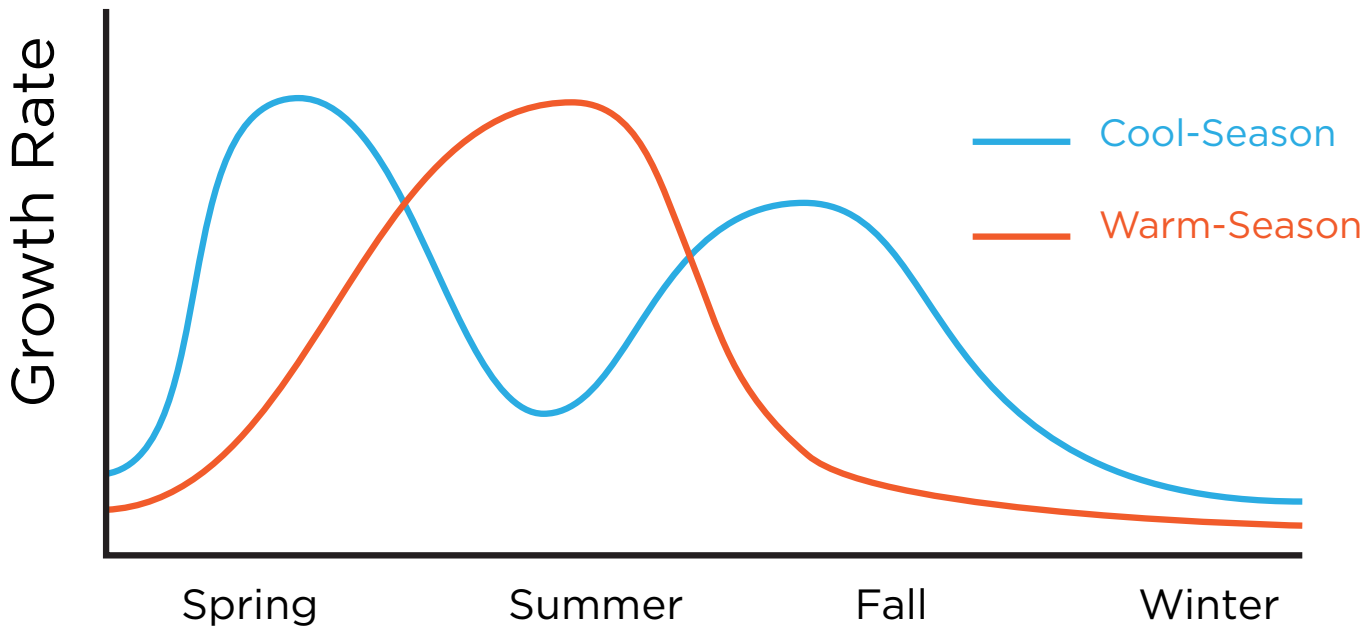


Figure 1: Growth rates for Warm and Cool Season Grass Types.

Warm-Season Grass Types & Their Characteristics

	Bahia Grass	Bermuda Grass	Centipede Grass	Saint Augustine	Zoysia Grass
Mowing	1.5 - 3 inches	0.5 - 1 inches	1 - 2 inches	1.5 - 3 inches	1 - 1.5 inches
Water	1.5 inches/week	1 - 1.5 inches/week	1.5 - 2 inches/week	1.5 - 2 inches/week	1 - 1.5 inches/week
Hrs Sunlight/ Shade Tolerance	6+ hours/day/ Good	6+ hours/day/ Poor	4+ hours/day/ Excellent	6+ hours/day/Excellent	6+ hours/day/ Fair
Fertilization	Low	High	Low	Medium-High	Medium
Wear Tolerance	Good	Excellent	Poor	Moderate	Excellent
Disease Resistance	Excellent	Brown Patch, Dollar Spot	Large Patch	St. Aug Decline, Brown Patch	Brown Patch
Drought Resistance	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Fair	Excellent
Cold Tolerance	Medium	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Medium
Propagation	Seed	Seed	Seed, Sod, Plugs	Sod	Seed, Sod, Plugs
Growth Rate	Rapid	Rapid	Slow	Medium-Rapid	Slow
Ideal Soil pH	6.0 - 7.5	5.5 - 7.5	5.0 - 6.0	6.5	6.0 - 7.0
Maintenance Level	Low	Medium-High	Low	Medium-High	Medium

Cool-Season Grass Types & Their Characteristics

	Annual Ryegrass	Creeping Bentgrass	Fine Fescue	Kentucky Bluegrass	Perennial Ryegrass	Tall Fescue
Mowing	1 - 2.5 inches	0.125 - 0.75 inches	2+ inches	1 - 2.5 inches	1.5 - 2.5 inches	3+ inches
Water	1.5 - 2 inches/week	1.5 - 2 inches/week	1.5 inches/week	1.5 inches/week	1.5 inches/week	1.5 - 2 inches/week
Hrs Sunlight/ Shade Tolerance	6+ hours/day/ Poor	6+ hours/day/ Fair	4+ hours/day/ Excellent	5+ hours/day/Fair	6+ hours/day/ Poor	5+ hours/day/ Excellent
Fertilization	High	High	Low-Medium	Medium-High	Medium	Medium
Wear Tolerance	Moderate	Poor	Good	Moderate	Good	Good
Disease Resistance	Leaf Spot	Excellent	Good	Brown Patch, Dollar Spot	Brown Patch, Leaf Spot	Brown Patch
Drought Resistance	Poor	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor	Excellent
Heat Tolerance	Poor	Good	Excellent	Poor	Poor	Excellent
Propagation	Seed	Seed	Seed	Seed, Sod, Plugs	Seed	Seed, Sod
Growth Rate	Rapid	Rapid	Rapid	Slow	Rapid	Rapid
Ideal Soil pH	5.5 - 7.5	5.0 - 6.5	5.5 - 6.5	6.0 - 7.0	6.0 - 7.0	5.5 - 6.5
Maintenance Level	Medium-High	High	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium	Medium-High

Climate Zones

Zone 1: Cool Humid is characterized by cool, but humid weather and has cold winters but mild summers. Cool-season grasses grow well in this area, but can go dormant in the summer if there is not enough rainfall. The most common grass types in this region are Bentgrasses, Fescues, Bluegrasses, and Ryegrasses. Bermuda or Zoysia may be used to overseed in the Spring in the southernmost regions.

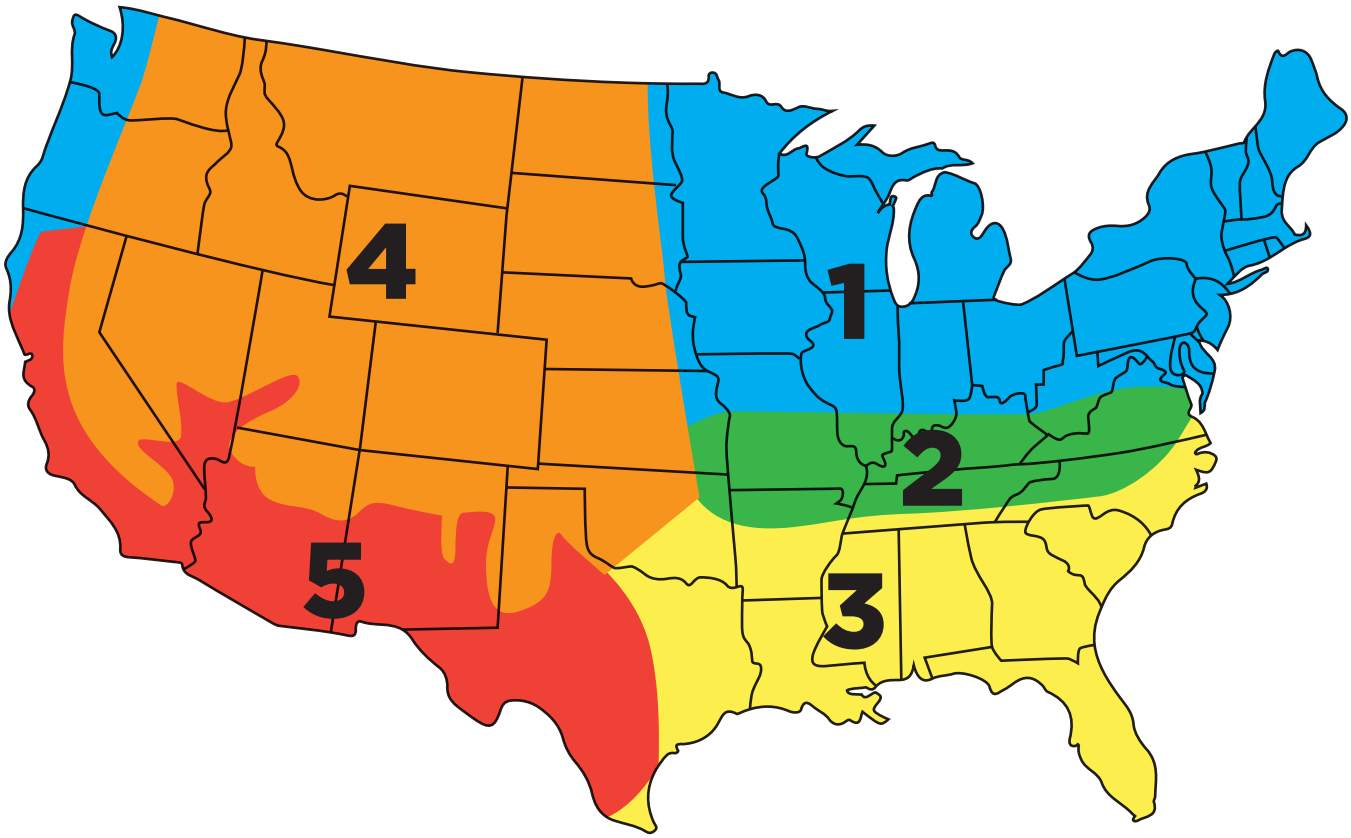
Zone 2: Cool Arid is characterized by a cool, but arid climate. Cool-season grasses grow in this zone, but will need your intervention when it comes to irrigation. Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescues, and Bentgrasses are the most prevalent in this region.

Zone 3: Warm Arid is warm and arid and warm-season grasses grow in this area, Bermuda being the most common grass type in this area. Grasses in this zone will need your intervention when it comes to irrigation as rainfall may not be plentiful especially in Arizona and California. Zoysia grass can also be grown in this area. A dense turf will be difficult to achieve without irrigation.

Zone 4: Warm Humid is home to mostly warm-season grasses due to its warm, but humid weather. The most common grass types grown here are Bermuda Grass, Zoysia Grass, Bahia Grass, and Centipede Grass. Kentucky Bluegrasses and Fescues can be grown in the Northeastern regions of this zone.

Zone 5: Transition Zone. This zone is the most difficult area to choose a turfgrass because neither the warm-season grasses nor the cool-season grasses are appropriate across the entire zone, so both warm-season and cool-season grasses are found. Grasses most commonly found in this zone are Bermuda Grass, Zoysia Grass, Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, and Fescues.

A good rule of thumb is that you should ask your local extension office or the department of agriculture to help you pinpoint the right grass type. The best grass types for this zone need to possess heat, cold, and drought tolerance abilities.



Bentgrasses, Fescues, Bluegrasses, and Ryegrasses.
- Bermuda Grass & Zoysia Grass (southernmost regions)

Kentucky Bluegrass, Fescues, Bentgrasses

Bermuda Grass, Zoysia Grass

Bermuda Grass, Zoysia Grass, Bahia Grass, and Centipede Grass.
- Kentucky Bluegrasses and Fescues (northeastern regions)

Bermuda Grass, Zoysia Grass, Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, and Fescues.

Get a Soil Test

First thing is first. There is no way to know what your soil needs just by looking at it. Nutrient deficiencies can present themselves visually, but visual symptoms also present similarly. Getting soil takes the guesswork out of the game.

You can obtain a soil test by doing a Google search online, checking with your local extension office, or a university may do them. Search for keywords like “Soil Analysis, Soil Testing, Soil Laboratories”. Plan to get this done before lawn season begins, or before planting new grass. The whole process could take 3-4 weeks.

The company or university conducting the Soil Test will need actual samples of your soil. For accuracy, you should collect 8-10 samples from various parts of the yard as the results could be slightly different in other areas, you can mix them together unless you want multiple tests per area if you have a particularly troublesome area you may want to get a separate test done. Be sure to use clean tools to extract soil samples. The company will specify how much of a sample they need. When extracting the soil, get to a depth of at least 6 inches.

SOIL TEST RESULTS

The results of the soil test will dictate what you need to do next. Ideally, you have obtained a soil test with the following items.

pH Levels: The pH level of your soil should be indicated. Levels of pH are from 0-14. Most grass types prefer a soil pH of 6.3-7.3. Higher pHs mean that the soil is alkaline, and lower values mean that soil is acidic.

Available Nutrients/Micronutrients: measures of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and other nutrients available in the soil.

Soluble Salts: This is a measure of salt levels in the soil.

Organic Matter: indicates how fertile the soil is.

CEC Cation Exchange Capacity: The soil's ability to hold nutrients.

FIXING YOUR SOIL AFTER THE SOIL TEST RESULTS

If you have had a soil test, you now know where you are lacking or excelling. Before planting the seed you want to correct any deficiencies as indicated by the soil test to give your grass the best chance. Some Soil Tests will provide recommendations on how to correct the issues, but not always. We recommend reaching out to us directly on our website, or by emailing us at ***hello@simplelawnsolutions.com***

Lime and Sulfur for the pH

Lime and Sulfur will help you to adjust the pH of your soil. Lime will counter the acidity and Sulfur will will balance out the alkalinity. Lime should only be used in very small increments.

Organic Matter
Organic Matter can be described as homemade or store bought compost and can come in the form of compost, sphagnum moss, peat moss, or manure. Organic matter helps sandy soil to retain nutrients and water, while loosening and aerating clay soils naturally. Organic matter attracts beneficial microorganisms and worms that will keep your lawn healthy and your soil's ecosystem thriving.

Gypsum
Gypsum is added to the soil in salty areas. Gypsum adds calcium to the soil which leaches the sodium out of the soil and allows for drainage.

Fertilizer
If your soil has a nutrient deficiency, you will need to add some fertilizer. All fertilizers indicate their nutrient levels, and will enrich the soil creating a great environment for growth. Starter fertilizers will aid in any phosphorus or potassium deficiencies, and are also great for seeding and sod.

In almost every situation, we recommend applying a Humic Acid product. Root Hume or Seaweed Soil Hume applications will make macronutrients more available to plant. Sometimes the soil contains a high level of a particular nutrient, but is unable to absorb that nutrient. No matter what, we always recommend these products in tandem, because they add organic matter to the soil and help with the nutrient uptake.

Topsoil
You should have 6-8 inches of fertile topsoil in your yard to ensure healthy root growth. You can even have a soil test run on your topsoil. After adding the topsoil, you will want to make sure it is completely level to allow for an even looking lawn.

Soil Aeration & Dethatching

Aeration and Dethatching are another piece of the lawn care puzzle. These maintenance tasks are not conducted as frequently as other tasks such as mowing and watering, but they are extremely essential to lawn care.

Aeration

Aeration is the process of removing or moving around soil particles in order to let in oxygen, and improve drainage and air flow to the soil and roots. Aeration can be done in a variety of ways. The two main types of aeration are mechanical aeration or core aeration and liquid aeration. These two methods aim to achieve the same goal, but have different paths of getting to that goal.

Mechanical aeration or core aeration uses a machine to poke holes into the soil, allowing improved air flow. Liquid Aeration is the process of adding a liquid that contains surfactants into the soil, which slowly will loosen the soil. Mechanical aeration takes longer to do and is more physical work, but the results occur quicker. Liquid Aeration is a quick and easy method that yields results in a few weeks.

Liquid Soil Loosener needs time to work its way through the soil delivering results. Many lawn owners opt for both options, and we always recommend aerating with our Liquid Soil Loosener because this product works its way deeper into the soil than mechanical aeration. When applying Liquid Soil Loosener, a little goes a long way, and one 32 ounce bottle covers 32,000 square feet. It is essential to apply this product with water, or to water this product into the soil for at least 20 minutes right after application. Failing to water will result in poor results, as this product is activated by water.

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Aeration should be conducted around one time every 1-2 years. Failure to properly aerate your soil will lead to soil compaction. Cool-season grass aeration is typically done during the fall or the spring, while warm-season grass is better served being aerated during the spring. Aeration should not be done during extreme heat, or during the winter as the ground will be too frozen. Aeration should always be done prior to seeding. Both mechanical and liquid aeration have the potential to interrupt the careful germination process of grass seeds. Aeration that is done before seeding will allow for a better growing environment. Aeration can be done on mature healthy grass without issue.

Soil Compaction

Soil Compaction is what happens if the lawn is not properly aerated. Soil Compaction is defined as soil particles that are clustered so close together that penetrating the soil becomes difficult. This hard soil presents many problems for grass. Soil Compaction can cause standing water, stress to the roots of the plant, and decreased flow of oxygen and nutrients to the roots. Soil Compaction weakens grass making the grass more susceptible to disease, pests, weed infestations, nutrient deficiencies, and other ailments. Many homeowners do not realize their soil is compacted until one of these other problems begins turning their grass brown, or killing their grass. Because of the connection to these other ailments, soil compaction can be easily mis-diagnosed and the problem made worse. A few weeks after a successful aeration with our Liquid Soil Loosener, you may even notice that your grass has renewed itself and gotten its green color back!

The sure way to tell if the soil is compacted is by conducting the screwdriver test. If you have trouble penetrating the soil, this means your soil is compacted. Clay soils are more likely to be compacted than other soil types because they are more dense.

Dethatching

Dethatching is another lawn care regimen that is so important, but does not need to be done more than once per year. Thatch is the dead organic matter that collects from the weekly mow in a layer on top of the soil that occurs naturally as old grass leaves die and new ones move in their place.

There is a healthy amount of thatch recommended and there are thatch benefits. Thatch benefits the lawn because it adds organic matter that eventually breaks down into nitrogen in the soil for the grass to feed on. Too much thatch occurs when excess organic matter is layered onto the soil, not breaking down quickly enough into a usable form for grass.

Too much thatch can cause problems with air flow, not allowing enough oxygen to the soil will hurt the grass and the microbes that live in the soil. Thatch also absorbs water, and excess thatch will hold onto water, so instead of the water being used by the roots of the plant, the thatch will become a soggy layer between the grass and soil.

This excess moisture also causes problems such as diseases and fungus that could eventually kill the grass. Preventing over-build up of thatch is one of the best ways to proactively protect your grass from fungal disease.

As a general rule, about half an inch of thatch is acceptable. But once the thach builds up to 1 inch or more, it can cause problems. This is when the thatch should be removed. Dethatching is the process of removing excess thatch. For cool-season lawns, dethatching is usually done around the same time as aeration in the spring or the fall. For warm-season lawns, dethatching should be done during the springtime. There are gas powered machines that you can purchase or rent to remove thatch, or you can simply remove thatch with a fine toothed rake.

Lawn Fertilizer Plans

Cool Season Fertilizer Schedule

Estimated Time Frame for Application	Spring		Summer	Summer/Fall	
	Lawn Comes out of Dormancy	Actively Growing Before the summer heat	Do not apply during dormancy from drought or summer heat	Late Summer, early fall application	Apply before lawn goes dormant
Can Vary w/ geographical location	Feb - March	April - June	July- Aug	Sept	Oct- Nov
Cool Season	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Lawn Food	Use 16-4-8 or 15-0-15		Use 3-18-18 or 0-0-25	Use 16-4-8 or 15-0-15	
Lawn Boosters	Any Booster can be added Lawn Energizer, or Growth Booster				
Soil Treatments	Root Hume, Soil Hume & Soil Loosener				
Additonal Tips	Make sure lawn is being watered and mowed properly. Water 1-2 inches per week. Select most appropriate booster considering NPK needs or deficiency, soil tests and nutrient balance with any other products used. Lawn Food and Booster can be applied on the same day. Lawn Food can be applied every 4-8 weeks depending on specific lawn needs.		Water well during the summer. If lawn browns because of drought or summer stress then hold off on applying fertilizer until the lawn naturally comes out of dormancy.	Root Hume & Soil Hume are especially beneficial if lawn has been experiencing stress during the summer heat.	Great time to seed or overseed lawn if desired.

Note:
This is a general recommendation guide. Individual needs vary due to grass type, geographical location, nutrient deficiency, and soil type. Balanced nutrients is key for lawn health. Adjust fertilizer applications according to soil tests and other products that you apply to your lawn.

After the last frost, when temperatures begin to warm up, Cool-Season Lawns will begin to come out of dormancy. This is usually around February or March. Depending on what you are planning on doing with your lawn will determine your fertilizer plan.

Spring

If you have an established lawn that is starting to green-up with the warmer climate, we recommend applying our 16-4-8 Lawn Food and/or our 15-0-15 Lawn Food. You may alternate between these products, applying one every 4-6 weeks (adjust according to your fertilizer program) during the months of up until the month of June. During this time, an established lawn needs Nitrogen, as this macronutrient is incredibly important for many key functions in the grass plant and turf uses Nitrogen more than any other nutrient. This is your grass's active growing season, and no nutrient other than Nitrogen will encourage greening and growth. Potassium is essential, but it does not necessarily contribute to the visible changes in turfgrass. The Potassium will help the turfgrass's tolerance to extreme temperatures, wear, and other stressors.

If you are planning on seeding a new lawn, we recommend following the recommendations in our seeding chapter.

Summer

If temperatures are steadily holding at 85º F and above, or if there is a lack of rain, and you don't have irrigation, we strongly recommend holding off on applying any product during this time.

If you are experiencing a mild summer, and your lawn is still green, great! You can apply most any product we offer based on your goals and soil test, but we especially recommend a light Nitrogen app and/or our Root Hume or Soil Hume.

Fall

The Fall is a great time for Cool-Season Grasses as the weather is starting to cool off, providing ideal conditions for growth. Many lawn owners opt to seed during the fall rather than the spring. We recommend using our 16-4-8 Lawn Food, and/or our 15-0-15 for the final push during the last part of the active growing season. If seeding, follow the instructions here.

For Fall, as the weather gets colder, the grass will begin to go dormant. You should have your lawn on a regular feeding schedule, until it starts to stay at 50º F. Once this happens the lawn will begin to go dormant for the winter. Nitrogen and Potassium are super important, but especially Potassium is important to prepare the lawn to endure the cold weather.

NOTE: If you plan on aerating your lawn, this is best done at least 4 weeks PRIOR to seeding or done on an established lawn. It is not recommended to apply Liquid Soil Loosener during the high heat in the summer or extreme cold in the winter.

Warm Season Fertilizer Schedule

Estimated Time Frame for Application	Spring		Summer	Summer/Fall	
	Lawn Comes out of Dormancy	Actively Growing Before the summer heat	Do not apply during dormancy from drought or summer heat	Late Summer, early fall application	Apply before lawn goes dormant
	Feb - March	April - June	July- Aug	Sept	Oct- Nov
Warm Season	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Lawn Food	Use 16-4-8 or 15-0-15		Use 16-4-8 or 15-0-15	Use 3-18-18 or 0-0-25	
Lawn Boosters	Any Booster can be added Lawn Energizer, or Growth Booster				
Soil Treatments	Soil Hume, Root Hume & Soil Loosener				
Additonal Tips	Make sure lawn is being watered & mowed properly. Water 1-2 inches per week. Select most appropriate booster considering NPK needs or deficiency, soil tests & nutrient balance with any other products used. Lawn Food & Booster can be applied on the same day. Lawn Food can be applied every 4-8 weeks depending on specific lawn needs.		Water well during the summer. If lawn browns because of drought or summer stress then hold off on applying fertilizer until the lawn naturally comes out of dormancy.	Root Hume & Soil Hume are especially beneficial if lawn has been experiencing stress during the summer heat.	Warm Season: High Phosphorus & Potassium before dormancy to invest in the root system over winter.

Note:
This is a general recommendation guide. Individual needs vary due to grass type, geographical location, nutrient deficiency, and soil type. Balanced nutrients is key for lawn health. Adjust fertilizer applications according to soil tests and other products that you apply to your lawn.

Warm-Season Grass will be dormant during the winter months, unless located in Southern Florida. Once temperatures are a consistent 70º F or above, and is receiving regular waterings your warm-season grass will start to green up. Depending on your location and your lawn goals for the year, will determine the best course of action for your lawn.

Spring

If you have an established lawn that is starting to green-up with the warmer climate, we recommend applying our 16-4-8 Lawn Food and/or our 15-0-15 Lawn Food. You may alternate between these products, applying one every 4-6 weeks (adjust according to your fertilizer program) during the months of up until the month of June. During this time, an established lawn needs Nitrogen, as this macro nutrient is incredibly important for many key functions in the grass plant and turf uses Nitrogen more than any other nutrient. This is your grass's active growing season, and no nutrient other than Nitrogen will encourage greening and growth. Potassium is essential, but it does not necessarily contribute to the visible changes in turf grass. The Potassium will help the turfgrass's tolerance to extreme temperatures, wear, and other stressors.

If you are planning on laying sod, we recommend following the steps in our seeding chapter.

Summer

If temperatures are steadily holding at 85º F and above, and there is an extended amount of time that the lawn is unable to receive water, we recommend holding off on applying any products as a lack of water can cause the lawn to go into dormancy. You will know if the lawn is going dormant if you see it evenly brown up. If there are scattered brown spots in certain areas and not in others, you could have another issue on your hands.

If you are experiencing a mild summer, or if you live in the southern states and your lawn is still green, great! You can apply most any product we offer based on your specific goals and soil test results, but we generally recommend a light Nitrogen app and/or our Root Hume or Soil Hume.

Fall

The Late Summer to Early Fall is a great time to fertilize. If you live in the Transition Zone, you may find yourself overseeding your warm-season lawn with a cool-season grass type. We recommend using our 3-18-18 and Root Hume or Growth Booster for overseeding and to follow our instructions for seeding.

Nitrogen and Potassium are super important, but especially Potassium is important to prepare the lawn to endure the cold weather, especially for warm-season grasses as most are not cold-tolerant. Prepare your grass for cooler temps by applying our 0-0-25 High Potassium Lawn Food.

Seeding the Lawn

Once the soil has been prepared and properly amended, you can plant seeds or lay your sod. Be sure to select the best grass type based on your region and climate.

Choosing to seed the lawn may be due to starting totally fresh, or reseeding/patching bare areas. Reseeding can be a tedious task so it is important to follow the steps to ensure your time and efforts are not wasted and that your newly seeded lawn thrives. We are going to go over the steps you should take when seeding your lawn. From properly prepping the soil to mastering the first mow, these best practices will help you master seeding your lawn.

When to Seed

Depending on where you live, will dictate when you should seed. The weather, and soil temperature will directly affect your grass seed. No matter where you live, the best time to plant the seeds is during the time that the seed will grow the best, and not during the time the grass would otherwise be dormant.

For example, cool season grasses will naturally take off during the spring or the fall. Spring and fall seeding for cool season grasses have their pros and cons. Springtime brings more competition between weeds and grass. For warm season grasses, seeds are best sown during the late spring.

Reading the Seed Bag Label
Being able to decipher the seed bag label will really help you be able to determine the best seed for your lawn.

Each type of seeds will have a seed kind and variety. Both the species, and type of species. Your best bet is to stay away from generic brands, such as types named just Bermuda Grass.

Germination Percentage represents the number of grass seeds that you can expect to germinate in optimum conditions. We would not recommend buying seed that has less than 70%.

Pure Seed Percentages is the percentage of seeds contained in the package by weight, not count.

Inert Matter is the amount of stuff in the package that will not grow, such as dirt. This should be between 0-1%.

Other Crop Seeds are any other seeds that may have gotten mixed into your grass seed. This number should be as close to 0% as possible.

Weed Seed is any weed seed that may be in the package. You want that number to be 0-1%, but it is almost impossible to keep out.

Origin is the place the seed crop was grown.

Date is the date that the seed was tested. There could also be a sell by date on the bag as well.

Lot Number and Manufacturer Information is mandatory for seed crop. The manufacturer's name, address, and the product's lot number has to be included on the packaging in order to legally sell seed. This is to ensure the contents have been verified that they are actually what they say they are.

Calculating How Much Seed You Need

Seeds are sold based on the coverage, usually indicated by square feet. In order to purchase enough seed you need to know the square footage of the area being seeded. To figure out the square footage of the lawn, measure the width and the height in feet. Multiply those two numbers together to get the total amount of square feet.
For example, 50 ft x 40 ft= 2,000 sq ft

Step 1: Prepare the Soil

If you are seeding for the first time, you must prepare the soil by weeding, tilling the soil, adding top soil, and leveling the soil. We always recommend obtaining a soil test prior to seeding to make sure your soil is at optimum nutrient levels. If possible, you want to correct any nutrient deficiencies before planting seed.

Step 2: Add a Starter Fertilizer

Use a starter fertilizer one day before seeding. Phosphorus is the most important element during the first stages of seeding. The starter fertilizer is recommended even after you correct any deficiencies in a soil test. Lawn Food 3-18-18/Root Hume or Growth Booster is a great product at this stage.

Step 3: Plant Seeds

Choose the best seed based on your location and growing conditions. The best way to plant seed, is by using a seed spreader.

Step 4: Irrigation

Once you have planted your seeds it is crucial to keep the lawn irrigated. Seed germination is activated by water. Watering correctly should be the main focus for the next few weeks. The top half inch of the soil should remain moist for the next few weeks. Once the lawn sprouts and roots, it is able to take moisture from deeper layers of the soil. Watering can be cut back at this stage, but more watering is needed for the next few weeks than an established lawn would need. When the lawn has matured and established itself, go back to a regular watering schedule of 1-2 inches of water per week.

Step 5: Apply a Nitrogen Fertilizer

When your new lawn reaches 1-2 inches in height it may show signs of a Nitrogen deficiency. Apply a nitrogen fertilizer at this time. This will give it a further push to full establishment.

Laying Sod

Laying sod is going to be easier than seeding, as the grass is already mature, but laying sod is a lot more expensive. Sod is cheaper if you lay it yourself, and if you are able to purchase the sod from a sod farm.

Preparing the soil for seeding and sod is exactly the same. For laying the sod you don't need a spreader, but you could use a lawn roller. You don't need to use a lawn roller, stepping on the sod after it is laid can be beneficial enough, as you want to make sure that the sod is laid evenly.

Establish your sod by watering your lawn deeply and infrequently. Watering this way will help the sod establish a healthy root system. Check out more watering tips in the next chapter.

Watering the Lawn

Just like sunlight requirements, grass needs water to survive. There is no product out there that will replace water and cure a drought-stricken lawn. **Generally, a lawn will need anywhere from 1-2 inches of water per week to really thrive.**

If germinating seeds, the lawn will need more water ranging from 3-6 inches, or however much water is required to keep the soil moist. The soil must be moist in order to allow for proper germination. Once the grass has sprouted and grown a couple of inches, the water can be scaled back to the normal schedule.

Measuring Water

We recommend that you measure the water if you are trying to figure out how much water your sprinkler or the rainstorm puts out. This can be done by putting out a rain collector. You can also place empty tuna cans around the lawn to see how long it takes to fill the cans up. Several cans should be placed around the lawn in order to make for accurate measurements as parts of the lawn may receive more water than other areas.

Drought Tolerance

All grass needs water, but some grass types are more drought tolerant than others. This means that they can endure a drier climate with less rain for a longer period of time than other types, but not forever.

Cool Season Grass Types	No Tolerance	Low Tolerance	Moderate Tolerance	High Tolerance
Kentucky Bluegrass			✓	
Perennial Ryegrass			✓	
Tall Fescue				✓
Fine Fescue			✓	
Annual Ryegrass	✓			
Bentgrass	✓			

Warm Season Grass Types	No Tolerance	Low Tolerance	Moderate Tolerance	High Tolerance
Bermuda Grass			✓	
Bahia Grass			✓	
Saint Augustine			✓	
Zoysia Grass	✓			✓
Buffalo Grass	✓			✓
Centipede Grass	✓			

Water & Fertilizer

We always recommend applying our products with water, or applying water to the lawn immediately after our products are applied. Water is crucial to a healthy lawn, and your lawn will not survive without it.

Conclusion

You made it to the end! We really appreciate your interest in our products and we are so happy to welcome you to our lawn family. If you have any questions about this guide, our products, or lawn care in general-don't hesitate to reach out to us directly at ***hello@simplelawnsolutions.com***

We hope you enjoyed this guide and we would love it if you shared your lawn journey with us by leaving a review, or tagging us on social media!

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