

# Managing Your Fescue Lawn

## Fertilizing

**Excess nutrients harm our watershed!**

- ✓ Use your soil test results (Retest every 3 years)
- ✓ Calibrate your spreader
- ✓ Keep fertilizer off of paved surfaces
- ✓ Do not fertilize dormant turf

Calculate the amount you need:

Multiply lbs., below, by # of 1000 sq. ft in your lawn)

Fertilizer	Approx. Ratio	Lbs. of Nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.	
Analysis	Ratio	1	2.5*
Lbs. of Fertilizer			
5/10/05	1/2/01	20	50
5/10/10	1/2/02	20	50
6/2/00	3/1/00	16.6	42
10/10/10	1/1/01	10	25
10/18/10	1/2/01	10	25
12/4/08	3/1/02	8.3	21
16-8-8	2/1/01	6.2	15.6
16-4-8	4/1/02	6.2	15.6
20-0-16	4-0-3	5	12.5
22-3-14	3/1/02	4.5	11.5
23-3-7	8/1/02	4.3	10.8
28-0-12	7-0-3	3.6	8.9
29-3-4	10/1/01	3.5	8.3
31-0-0	1-0-0	3.2	8
33.5-0-0	1-0-0	3	7.5
38-0-0	1-0-0	2.6	6.6
46-0-0	1-0-0	2.2	5.4

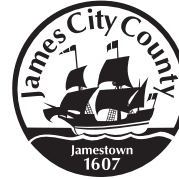
\* ONLY for establishing a NEW lawn

## Liming

**Applying too much lime can leave an undesirable residue on your lawn!**

- ✓ Use your soil test results and do not apply more lime until you have retested
- ✓ For less than 50 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., apply lime in one application
- ✓ If more than 50 lbs. are recommended, apply additional applications of up to 50 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. at 1-6 month intervals
- ✓ Don't apply lime to frozen ground

Virginia Cooperative Extension  
James City County Office  
P.O. Box 69, Toano, VA 23168



## Mowing

**Proper mowing reduces weeds 50%-80%!**

- ✓ Sharpen mower blades
- ✓ Set mower height at 2.5-3 in.
- ✓ Mow often enough that you never remove more than 1/3 of grass height
- ✓ Leave clippings on lawn to reduce need for additional fertilizer and moisture

## Watering

**Frequent watering will damage your lawn!**

- ✓ Your lawn needs an average of only 1 in. of rain per week
- ✓ Don't water if there is sufficient rain; turf needs water only if it looks blue-gray and you leave footprints
- ✓ In dry spells allow an established lawn to go dormant
- ✓ If you do water, avoid run-off by watering slowly, wetting the soil to a depth of 4-6 inches
- ✓ Calibrate your irrigation system to avoid over-watering
- ✓ Water in early morning, not in the evening or in the heat of the day

Have a lawn or  
garden question?  
Call the Extension  
Service Helpline MWF  
at 564-2170

# Lawn Care Calendar for Tall Fescues

What to Do	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December		
<b>Core Aeration</b>									<b>Core Aerate</b> Annually before other fall treatments					
<b>Fertilize</b>	<b>Nitrogen Fertilization Not Recommended</b>									1 lb. of N				
												1 lb. of N		
													1 lb. of N	
<b>Seeding</b> New lawn or overseeding			Second-best time of year - a <b>POOR</b> Second						<b>BEST TIME</b> of year					
<b>Weed Control</b> (if needed, based on prior history)			Pre-emergent crabgrass control	<b>Spring &amp; Summer Broadleaf Weeds</b> Treat lawn in April AND/OR May				For major lawn renovation, kill existing turf with Glyphosate (Roundup)		<b>Fall &amp; Winter Broadleaf Weeds</b> treat lawn in Oct. AND/OR Nov.				
<b>Insect Control</b> (if needed, based on prior history)								<b>White Grub Control</b> Call JCC Extension for current recommendations		<b>Apply Milky Spore</b> for long term control of Japanese Beetle grubs				