

Skip Richter's Lawn Care Schedule*

Saturdays & Sundays 6-10 a.m.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fertilizing (synthetic)	** Soil Test every 3-5 years		*** Fast release for early greenup (1)	Apply a slow release fertilizer (2)	If you miss any fertilizer application, apply it as soon as you can.	Apply a slow release fertilizer (2)				Apply a fall type fertilizer (3)		
Apply a trace mineral supplement once per year unless a soil test indicates otherwise (4)												
Fertilizing (organic)	** Soil Test every 3-5 years			Apply a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer (5)	If you miss any fertilizer application, apply it as soon as you can.	Apply a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer (5)				Apply a fall type fertilizer (6)		
Aeration	Core aerate & apply finely screened, high quality leaf mold compost. If soil is dry, apply 1/2" of irrigation 2-3 days before aerating.											
Mowing	Collect leaves for mulch & compost	Mow with bag to collect cool season weed blooms & seeds	Mow frequently with a sharp blade to build turf density. Remove no more than 1/3 of grass blades with each mowing. Return clippings to the lawn to recycle their complete & balanced nutrient content. When prolonged rainy periods delay mowing, mow once at a taller height and then again at the desired height, or bag clippings for composting or mulching garden beds.								Collect leaves for mulch & compost	
Watering	The numbers below are the <i>historical average</i> inches of irrigation a Houston area lawn needs <i>per week, in full sun, IN THE ABSENCE OF RAIN</i> each month.											
	0"	0"	1/2"	3/4"	1"	1"	1"	1"	3/4"	1/2"	1/2"	0"
	Deep, infrequent watering promotes deep rooting, saves money, and minimizes disease and insect problems, compared to light, frequent watering.											
Water until just before runoff begins, let soak for 45 min, repeat this "cycle & soak" until you've applied 1". Allow soil to dry out for a week before watering again.												

Note: All the products below are listed in alphabetical order.

- (1) Quality **fast acting fertilizer** examples:
Nelson's TurfStar Bruce's Brew 18-4-9
Nitro-Phos Imperial (red bag) 15-5-10
Southwest Lawn Special 15-5-10
- (2) Quality **slow release fertilizer** examples:
Nelson's Turfstar Slow 'n Easy 22-2-10
Nitro-Phos SuperTurf (silver bag) 19-4-10
Southwest Premium Gold 15-5-10

- (3) Quality **fall fertilizer** examples:
Nelson's TurfStar Carbo-Load 10-10-20
Nitro-Phos Fall Special (brown bag) 8-12-16
Southwest Premium Winterizer 16-8-12
- (4) Quality **trace mineral product** examples:
Azomite
Nature's Way Remineralizer

- (5) Quality **organic fertilizer** examples:
Microlife (green bag) 6-2-4
Nelson's NatureStar Organic Tree & Turf 8-1-2
Nitro-Phos Sweet Green 11-0-4
Organic Food Complete 4-4-3 (The Arbor Gate)
Southwest Fertilizer Earth Essentials 5-1-3
- (6) Quality **organic fall type fertilizer** examples:
MicroLife Brown Patch (brown bag) 5-1-3
Organic Food Complete 4-4-3 (The Arbor Gate)
Southwest Fertilizer Earth Essentials 5-1-3

* See **Skip Richter's Pest, Disease, & Weed Management Schedule** for more info: gardeningwithskip.com

** Print soil test submission form at: soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf *** Optional application.