

# Skip Richter's Lawn Care Schedule \*

Saturdays & Sundays 6-10 a.m.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Fertilizing (synthetic)</b>	** 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)								
<b>Fertilizing (organic)</b>	** 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)			
<b>Aeration</b>				Core aerate & apply finely screened, high quality leaf mold compost. If soil is dry, apply 1/2" of irrigation 2-3 days before aerating.								
<b>Mowing</b>	Collect leaves for mulch and 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 and 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.							
<b>Watering</b>	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](http://gardeningwithskip.com)

\*\* Print soil test submission form at: [soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf](http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/files/urbansoil.pdf)

\*\*\* Optional application.