

LAWN CARE CALENDAR FOR CHICAGOLAND

Month	Lawn care practices to consider
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Clean up debris from winter, remove from lawn surface. * Over seed and/or seed empty spots early in the month. * Fertilize when turf turns green (usually tax day) – 1st app * Apply pre-emergence weed control for annual weeds at the end of month until the first week of May (in an organic form like corn gluten meal or synthetic pre-emergent weed preventer). * Apply <i>Grub-Ex</i> with Chlorantraniliprole for early and all-season control.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fertilize with synthetic or organic type at end of month – use ½ to ¾ pound of nitrogen / 1,000 sq. ft. – 2nd app (Memorial Day) * Apply post-emergent broadleaf weed control to actively growing weeds (best to spot spray with liquids, unless weeds are throughout the entire lawn).
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue post-emergent weed control (spot spraying with liquid herbicides – discontinue when weather reaches 80 degrees F). * Watch rainfall – supplement with 1 inch of water / week if no rain
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue irrigation if rain is not 1 inch / week when 75 degrees, add an additional ½ inch of water for every 10 degrees over 75. * Apply <i>Grub Beater</i> grub control with Imidacloprid the second week (if no grub control was applied in April – June) to prevent grub damage latter in the summer (it only lasts 8-10 weeks in the soil).
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Monitor for insect pests – annual white grubs, Japanese beetle grubs (mid-August through Sept.) and sod webworm, treat with contact insecticides if “season-long “ control was not used. * Continue supplemental irrigation – 1-2 inches of water / week. * Seeding (last two weeks is the best time of year).
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Overseeding and initial establishment (first week – best time). * Fertilize in the first 2 weeks (the most important application of the year – ¾ to 1 pound of nitrogen / 1,000 sq. ft.) – 3rd app (Labor Day) * Core-aeration (the best time of year), when lawn is still actively growing. (O.K. to do this through the end of October.) * Post-emergence broadleaf weed control in the form of a synthetic “weed & feed” granular or a liquid herbicide spray.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Post-emergence broadleaf weed control (especially ‘creeping charlie’) * Core-aeration until the end of the month (if not done in September).
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Apply the “winterizing” fertilizer within 1 week of the final mowing – use organic form like ‘Milorganite’ for long term slow release fertilization to last until the spring season. – 4th app (Halloween) * Continue mowing until dormant (during the final mow, cut the lawn to 2 inches long)