



Centipede Grass

Fertilization & Weed Prevention Program

www.wplawinc.com

Let's create something beautiful

INTRODUCTION

Since 1970, W. P. Law, Inc. has been the trusted source for irrigation components throughout South Carolina. We are proud to announce the newest line of products to help keep your property looking its best. Our contractor grade fertilizers and weed prevention products will ensure you get the professional results you desire.

The horticulture staff at W. P. Law, Inc. has assembled an easy-to-follow schedule with application rates to take the guess work out of proper fertilization and weed control.

Allow us to use our numerous years of experience to assist you in saving time while producing a healthier landscape.

BACKGROUND

Centipede was first introduced into the U. S. in the early 1900s. Originally from southern China, centipede has adapted well to the state of South Carolina. Centipede is one of the few turf grasses, which perform well on acidic and infertile soils. Centipede grass has long been called the "Lazy Man's Grass". This is due to its slower growing habit and lower fertility requirement.

Many homeowners have complained of delayed spring green-up or even dead spots within their lawns. For the past four years, Clemson University has researched the effect of fertilization on centipede lawns. Although the research is on-going, they have linked this phenomenon to over fertilization. Centipede grass grows best when no more than 1 to 2 pounds of nitrogen per growing season is applied to the lawn.

The 20-0-25 EXPO will provide 1 pound of nitrogen in a form which will continue to feed the lawn for up to 10 weeks as well as slow release potassium to help the lawn become more drought tolerant.

COMMON MANAGEMENT MISTAKES

- Over-fertilization
- Over-watering
- Early season nitrogen applications
- Poor drainage

Centipede is a low management grass that does not need many inputs. Common mistakes include over-fertilization and over-watering. Besides over fertilizing, many people make the mistake of applying fertilizers too early in the growing season.

Centipede will not start growing aggressively until the night time temperatures are consistently around 70 degrees. Applying nitrogen based fertilizers too early can make it more susceptible to late cold snaps. Fertilizers that contain a 1-0-1 ratio of nitrogen to potash work best on centipede, especially those grown on sandy soils.



Soil Testing Services Available



Get the free mobile app at
<http://gettag.mobi>

After downloading
the app, scan this
tag to visit our
website

Centipede prefers well drained soils and will not tolerate “wet feet”. Over watering can lead to patch diseases which have become a major problem for this grass. Special attention should be paid to areas that receive runoff water from slopes, driveways, rooftops, etc. These areas can be more prone to having disease problems.

SPITTLEBUG

There are several types of spittlebugs in South Carolina. The two-lined spittlebug causes the most damage on turf by sucking out sap from the leaf blades with their needle like mouth parts. Centipede grass seems to be the most affected, although these insects will feed on Bermuda, Zoysia, and St. Augustine. Spittlebug eggs over-winter in hollow stems of the grass and in plant debris on the soil. Eggs require high humidity for developing and hatch in May and early June. Two-lined spittlebugs are easily identified by the two orange lines across their backs. There are usually 2-3 generations per year in South Carolina. Young adults (nymphs) are also identified by spittle masses which protect it from drying and natural enemies. These masses look like spit and very indicative of spittlebug infestations. Most healthy stands of grass can tolerate certain levels of infestation. Regular mowing can help to reduce the population of these feeding insects. Mowing before insecticide applications can increase their effectiveness. Damage usually occurs from June through September. Grasses with high thatch and humidity levels favor spittlebug activity. Infestations result in yellowing of grasses.



Spittlebug

CENTIPEDE TRAITS

- Fertility** - Low
- Drought Tolerance** - Medium
- Disease Problems** - Patch Diseases
- Insect Problems** - Spittlebugs
- Recovery Rate** - Poor
- Density** - Medium
- Texture** - Medium
- Wear Tolerance** - Poor

SOILS

A practical understanding of your soil is essential in managing your lawn. Soil pH is perhaps the most crucial element. Most turf grasses perform best when the soil pH falls between 6.3 and 7.0. Centipede differs in that it performs best when soil pH falls between 5.7 and 6.5. If your soil pH does not fall within this range, essential nutrients will not be available to the grass. W.P. Law Inc. offers a complete soil testing service. Soil samples can be dropped off at any of our locations around the state.

Sol-u-Cal - Used to adjust soil pH. When applied at a rate of 12 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft., Sol-u-Cal will raise the pH as much as one point in as little as 4-6 weeks.

PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDES

Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent annual weeds from germinating in your lawn by forming a protective chemical barrier on the soil surface. There are both cool season and warm season annual weeds that germinate at various times throughout the year. By applying a pre-emergent herbicide, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

NEVER apply these products on a lawn that is not well established!

MOWING

Centipede should be mowed at a height of 1 ½ to 2 inches. Always remember that the more stress a plant is under, the higher the lawn should be mowed. Frequency of mowing will also vary depending on the growth of the grass. Most centipede lawns should be mowed every 7 to 10 days. During drought conditions, it would be best to mow the lawn once every two weeks. As with any other lawn, a consistent mowing interval will improve the quality of the turf. A good rule of thumb is to NEVER remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during mowing.

AERATION

Aeration has two purposes. The first is to simply loosen the soil. The second is to prune the roots. Core aeration is the recommended method and should be performed every 2 years on a typical home lawn during the growing season. If your lawn receives heavy foot traffic, it is advisable to aerate every year. Aeration should be performed during the growing season of the turf.

For a complete list of labels and MSDS for the products listed in this program, visit our website at

www.wplawinc.com/labels_msds

WATERING

The watering requirement for your Centipede lawn will vary greatly due to constantly changing weather conditions. During the growing season, it may need anywhere from 0-1.5” of water per week. The professionals at W. P. Law, Inc. suggest using an irrigation controller with a weather station or soil moisture sensors to compensate for these changing conditions.

Studies have shown these types of controllers can save 20-50% on your water bill over traditional time based controllers. Existing controllers can also be fitted with this water saving technology.

In addition to saving water and money, there is no need for continual adjustment. The result is a better looking lawn with less effort. Because these “smart controllers” only apply water when needed, they will usually pay for themselves in water savings within the first year.



Irrigation controller and weather station.

Disclaimer:

This fertilizer and weed prevention program is an informal reference for herbicides and fertilizers available for turfgrass management. It is not meant to supplement any product labels. Herbicide and fertilizer labels should always be consulted before being applied. Labels are subject to change without notice. Due to differences in grass varieties, environmental conditions, temperature, stress, moisture conditions, plant health, and other factors, herbicide and fertilizer applications may cause undesirable injury to grasses. W.P. Law Inc. does not guarantee or warranty the use of products listed in this program. Please remember that the label is the law.

CENTIPEDE FERTILIZER AND WEED PREVENTION PROGRAM

January	Soil Test and Sol-u-cal (if necessary) - Soil Testing available through W. P. Law, Inc. Sol-u-cal adds calcium to the soil and raises the pH to ensure necessary nutrients are available to your grass.	
Feb. 15th- Mar. 15	0-0-7 Barricade 0.38% or 0-0-7 Dimension 0.13% (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) (3.3# per 1000 sq. ft.) Prevents summer annual weeds such as crabgrass.	Holganix
April	Sul Po Mag 0-0-22 (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) Provides magnesium, potassium and micro nutrients for grass growth.	Holganix
May	25-0-10 Fertilizer (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) Maintains steady even growth with balanced slow release nutrients.	Spot spray weeds with post emergent. See weed guide for available chemicals.
July	6-1-11 with 7% Iron (5# per 1000 sq. ft.) Produces green color without flushing top growth in late season.	Holganix
Sept. 15th- Oct. 15th	0-0-7 Barricade 0.38% or 0-0-7 Dimension 0.13% (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) (6.6# per 1000 sq. ft.) Prevents winter annual weeds such as annual bluegrass (Poa annua).	Holganix

Holganix is a patented proprietary blend of organic bio-nutrients used to promote strong plant growth and stimulate resistance to disease and insect damage by producing dense root growth at the cellular level. It is a soil conditioner but also enables plants through the use of bio-stimulants, to efficiently absorb beneficial nutrients and pesticides. In doing so, the use of fertilizers and pesticides can be reduced which is better for our environment.

ALL WARM SEASON GRASSES		
February	Holganix	7 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.
April	Holganix	7 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.
May	Holganix	7 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.
July	Holganix	7 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.
Target rate per year 24-28 oz. per 1000 sq. ft.		

In addition to fertilizers, W.P. Law Inc. offers a broad range of control products to keep landscapes looking their best. Our insect control program works great on fire ants and other lawn damaging insects. This newer generation broad-spectrum insecticide gives up to three months control and works on insects such as fire ants, spittlebugs, armyworms, cutworms, fleas, ticks, mole crickets, sand gnats, millipedes, and centipedes. Two applications per year will give season long control on most unwanted insects. Consult the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Insect Management Guide for additional information on insects that cause damage to turf. A copy of the guide is available for download at www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass

W.P. Law Inc. also offers a complete line of granular fungicides to protect your turf against diseases that can cause severe injury. There are a variety of diseases that can cause injury to Centipede grass. In recent years, large patch (brown patch) has become the number one disease on warm-season turf. Below is a fungicide program to help prevent large patch infestation. For additional information on other diseases that affect Centipede grass, visit www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass to download a copy of the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Disease Management Guide.

Read entire label before using the products.
Use only according to label instructions.

For a list of spreader settings, visit
www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program

INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

April	Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide Broad spectrum insect control that lasts up to 3 months. Works great on fire ants. (2.3# - 4.6# per 1000 sq. ft.)
July	Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide Broad spectrum insect control that lasts up to 3 months. Works great on fire ants. (2.3# - 4.6# per 1000 sq. ft.)

Brown Patch on Warm-Season Turf (Large Patch) (*Rhizoctonia solani*)



Management Tips:

- Make initial nitrogen applications in May once grasses are fully out of dormancy. Do not make any nitrogen applications after Aug. 15th.
- Avoid early season and late season nitrogen applications when the disease is active
- Avoid over irrigating grasses during Spring months
- Increase the height of cut and increase air circulation if possible
- Minimize the amount of shade the grass receives
- Irrigate turf in the early part of the day. Irrigate deeply and infrequently
- Improve drainage. Grasses such as Centipede and St. Augustine are stressed by excessive moisture.
- Reduce thatch
- Apply lime if soil pH is less than 6.5

Symptoms: Large patch typically attacks grasses when they are in the transition stage. This occurs during the spring and fall months when grasses are going in and out of dormancy. Large patch can be identified by large circular patches ranging from 2-20 feet in diameter. Patches often have a yellow to light brown band around them. These patches can be perennial and occur in the same spot from year to year. Large patch produces soft, dark rot that occurs on the lower portion of leaf sheaths. Rot at the basal portion of the leaf sheath causes shoots to easily detach from stolons. Distinct leaf lesions are usually not noticeable with large patch. This disease has quickly become the number one disease on warm season turf in South Carolina.

Conditions favoring the disease: Large patch occurs when daytime temperatures are in the 50° F to 85° range. Warm days with cool nights along with heavy dew favor disease development. Large patch is more active in the spring and fall months and can be brought about by conditions of high humidity and leaf wetness of more than 10 hours for several consecutive days. Because this disease attacks grasses during their transition stage, recovery is often slow.

LARGE PATCH FUNGICIDE PROGRAM

Early April	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq.ft.)
Grass goes dormant	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (2# per 1000 sq.ft.)
30 days after dormancy	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (2# per 1000 sq.ft.)



Need a reminder of when to apply? . . . Go to
www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program
 and sign up to receive e-mail
 notifications and important information

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