



St. Augustine Grass

Fertilization & Weed Prevention Program

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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

St. Augustine is a coarse warm season grass that is grown in coastal areas along the southern U.S. Because of its cold tolerance, St. Augustine is limited on how far inland it can be grown. St. Augustine grows best on moist well drained soils found on coastal plains. Newer varieties are available with improved cold tolerance.

St. Augustine spreads from above ground runners. It is usually established through sodding as it produces very little viable seed. Wear tolerance is only fair, leaving it primarily used for home lawn applications.

St. Augustine will tolerate more shade than most of the warm season turf grasses, although it may become thin and spindly under heavy shade conditions. Like most grasses, it prefers full sun.

COMMON MANAGEMENT MISTAKES

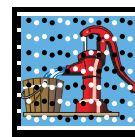
- Mowing height too low
- Over-watering
- Poor Drainage



Soil Testing Services Available

St. Augustine prefers a higher mowing height than most grasses. Adjust mowing height to avoid scalping. It performs best on moist, well drained

Chinch bugs are a major insect problem and can transmit viruses. Regular scouting should be done throughout the growing season to monitor for this insect. Brown Patch disease has become more prevalent on St. Augustine in recent years in addition to Gray Leaf Spot. Preventative fungicide applications should be made during hot, humid periods of the growing season. Over-watering will increase the severity of these diseases.



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CHINCH BUGS



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. If your soil pH does not fall within this range, essential nutrients will not be available to the grass. We recommend that a soil test be performed annually to check the pH values as well as other nutrient levels within the soil profile. 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!**

ST. AUGUSTINE TRAITS

Fertility - Medium
Drought Tolerance - Medium
Shade Tolerance - High (Like most grasses, prefers full sun)
Disease Problems - Gray Leaf Spot, Patch Diseases
Insect Problems - Chinch Bugs
Recovery Rate - Good
Density - Medium
Texture - Coarse
Wear Tolerance - Fair

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.

HELPFUL TIPS

St. Augustine lawns can be prone to several problems throughout the growing season. One of the major problems we see with St. Augustine lawns are customers using inappropriate herbicides. Before applying any herbicide, read the entire label and make certain it is labeled for St. Augustine. If your lawn species is not written on the label, do not assume that the product is safe.

Another common problem with St. Augustine is fungus. There are two common fungus problems associated with St. Augustine grass. The first fungus is Gray Leaf Spot that produces small circular lesions on the leaves. Gray Leaf Spot is most active during hot, humid conditions during the summer months. For additional information, consult the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Diseases Management Guide.

Another fungus that plagues St. Augustine is Brown Patch, also known as Large Patch. Large Patch is most active during the spring and fall and can produce large circular patches of dead turf. Refer to the section in the guide to learn more about this disease and how to prevent it.



Mow St. Augustine between 3 - 4 inches.

MOWING

St. Augustine performs best when mowed between 3 and 4 inches. This height of cut should be easily obtained so long as the lawn is smooth. If there are severe irregularities in the grade, be careful not to scalp certain areas. A good rule of thumb is to NEVER remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during mowing.

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

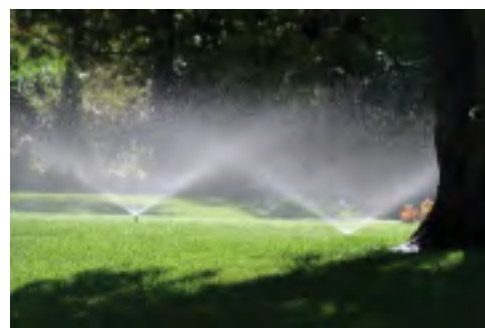
www.wplawinc.com/labels_msds

WATERING

The watering requirement for your St. Augustine 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.



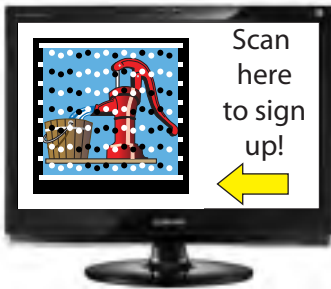
Irrigation controller and weather station.

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.

ST. AUGUSTINE 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.
May	19-0-6 Barricade 0.38% (3# per 1000 sq. ft.) 16-0-8 Barricade provides extended preventative weed control.
June - July 1st	20-0-10 Fertilizer (5# per 1000 sq. ft.) Maintains steady even growth with balanced slow release nutrients.
August	6-1-11 with 7% Iron (5# per 1000 sq. ft.) Produces green color without flushing top growth in late season.
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 (<i>Poa annua</i>).



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

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 St. Augustine 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 St. Augustine 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

April	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq. ft.)
Sept.	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq. ft.)
Oct.	Pillar G Fungicide Broad-spectrum systemic fungicide with two active ingredients (3# per 1000 sq. ft.)

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