



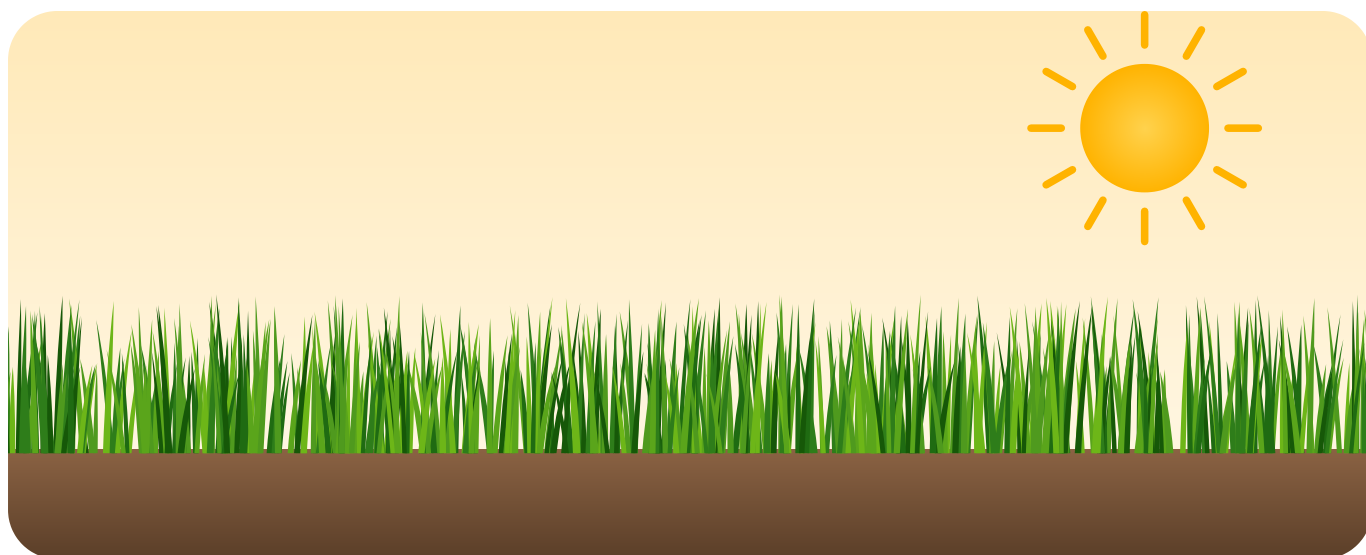
Nashville Aeration Co.

Let your lawn breathe.

Summer Lawn Guide · June–August

Summer. Help it beat the heat.

Nashville summers are tough on tall fescue and perfect for Bermuda. Mow high, water deep, skip the fescue fertilizer, and watch for brown patch and grubs. Here's your June-to-August plan.



1 in.

Water per week for actively growing fescue, rain included, applied about ½ inch at a time.

5–9 a.m.

The best time to water, per UT Extension. Night watering invites disease.

85°F

Skip broadleaf weed sprays above this temperature. They can drift and vaporize onto plants you value.

01 • Month by month

Summer, month by month.

For fescue, summer is about survival. For Bermuda and zoysia, it's peak growing season.

● TALL FESCUE

June

Heat arrives

- Raise the mower to about **3½–4 inches**. Taller grass shades the soil and roots deeper.
- **No nitrogen.** Summer feeding fuels brown patch.
- Water deeply in the early morning: about 1 inch a week, rain included.
- Watch for brown patch when nights stay above 70°F and it's humid.
- Treat nutsedge while it's actively growing.

July

Peak heat

- Keep traffic light on heat-stressed grass.
- **Don't spray weed killer on stressed fescue**, and skip broadleaf sprays above 85°F.
- **Scout for grubs** from mid-July to early August.
- Start removing Bermuda or dallisgrass that's invading the fescue (July–August).

August

Get ready for fall

- **Book fall core aeration and seeding.** UT's seeding window opens around August 20.
- Get a soil test so pH and nutrients can be corrected at seeding.
- **No fall weed preventer anywhere you plan to seed.**
- Finish Bermuda and dallisgrass removal.

● BERMUDA & ZOYSIA

- **Bermuda:** about 1 lb nitrogen per 1,000 sq ft in late June.
- **Prime time to core-aerate** (through early July), and to dethatch if thatch is over ½ inch. Feed afterward.
- Mow often enough to never cut more than a third: Bermuda 1–2 inches, zoysia 1½–2½.
- Water up to 1 inch a week. In heat, about ⅓ inch three times a week works well.
- Last call to plant Bermuda: June 30.

- **Bermuda:** about 1 lb nitrogen in late July.
- **Zoysia:** second and final feeding, mid-to-late July.
- **Scout for grubs** from mid-July to early August.
- Watch for fall armyworms from mid-summer on.
- Keep treating nutsedge through August.

- **Late August–early September:** winter weed preventer for annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) once the soil drops below 70°F. Skip areas you'll seed.
- Keep checking for armyworms, especially in new or thin areas.
- Keep mowing at your normal height.



Brown patch weather. Nashville summers bring long stretches of 90°F days and warm, humid nights — exactly what brown patch loves. Mow high, water only in the early morning, and keep nitrogen off fescue until September.

02 · Key topics

Get through summer strong.

The heat-season habits that keep your lawn alive, healthy and ready for fall.



Water deep, not daily

- **How much:** actively growing fescue needs about 1 inch a week, rain included (up to 1½ in. in extreme heat). Apply about ½ inch at a time, no more than twice a week, to wet the soil 6 inches deep.
- **When:** early morning, about 5–9 a.m. Night watering keeps leaves wet and invites disease.
- **Signs it's thirsty:** a bluish-gray color, folded leaves, and footprints that don't spring back.
- **Measure it:** a rain gauge and the cup test (cans out, 15 minutes, measure) tell you exactly how long to run each zone.
- **Clay soil:** if water runs off, split runs into shorter cycles about an hour apart.



Brown patch on fescue

- **Looks like:** tan patches from 6 inches to several feet across, sometimes with a grayish "smoke ring" edge in the morning.
- **When:** hot, humid stretches — nights above 70°F, days above 90°F, and leaves that stay wet for hours.
- **Prevent it:** no summer nitrogen, water early in the morning only, and mow tall with a sharp blade.
- **Every-year problem?** UT suggests a preventive fungicide once soil holds above about 68–70°F, repeated per the label.



Check for grubs

- **When:** mid-July to early August.
- **How:** cut a 1-foot square of turf 2–3 inches deep, peel it back and count. Check a few spots.
- **Treat if you find:** about 5–10 annual white grubs per square foot (thresholds vary by species).
- **Timing:** preventive products go down from spring to midsummer; curative ones work best July–September, while grubs are young. Water either one in.



Letting fescue go dormant

Without irrigation, fescue may thin or turn brown in summer. If you choose dormancy, NC State and Clemson Extension recommend about ½ inch of water every three weeks to keep the crowns alive. Don't fertilize or spray dormant grass, and keep traffic off it.



Bermuda & zoysia aeration

Late May through early July is the window for warm-season lawns: they're growing fast and heal quickly. Core-aerate to relieve compaction, dethatch if thatch is over ½ inch, then fertilize to speed recovery. Fescue waits for fall.

03 · Pests, weeds & more

Know what to watch for.



Fall armyworms

They show up in late summer and fall, chewing Bermuda and new seedlings down fast. To check, mix 1–2 tablespoons of dish soap in a gallon of water and pour it over a 2-by-2-foot area. Caterpillars surface within minutes. Established lawns usually recover; new seedlings are the most vulnerable.



Nutsedge

Shiny, yellow-green, grass-like weeds that grow faster than your lawn. They thrive with overwatering and poor drainage, so fix those first. Treat May–August with a sedge-specific herbicide labeled for your grass. Pulling rarely works because the underground tubers resprout.



Heat and weed control

Above 85°F, broadleaf herbicides can drift and vaporize onto nearby plants. Spraying fescue that's already heat-stressed can injure it. Spot-treat on cooler mornings, or save broadleaf weeds for fall, when control works best.



Bermuda creeping into fescue

Bermuda spreads into fescue from beds and neighbors' yards. UT schedules removal programs in fescue for July–August, before fall seeding. A thick, tall-mowed fescue lawn is the best long-term defense.

Your summer checklist

- ☐ Fescue mowed at 3½–4 inches
- ☐ Grubs checked mid-July to early August
- ☐ Bermuda and zoysia aerated by early July
- ☐ Fall aeration and seeding booked
- ☐ Sprinklers set for early morning, deep and infrequent
- ☐ Bermuda fed in late June and late July
- ☐ Soil test sent before fall seeding
- ☐ No fall weed preventer where you'll seed

Avoid these summer mistakes

- ☒ Watering at night
- ☒ Nitrogen on fescue in summer
- ☒ Broadleaf sprays above 85°F
- ☒ Short daily sprinkles on established lawns
- ☒ Mowing fescue short
- ☒ Pulling nutsedge

Based on University of Tennessee Extension publications PB1903, PB1576, PB1935, PB1158, W159-H, W160-F, W161-F, W161-I, W203, W205, W260, W1068, W1359 and D141, plus NC State and Clemson Extension on summer dormancy. Always follow product labels.



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