



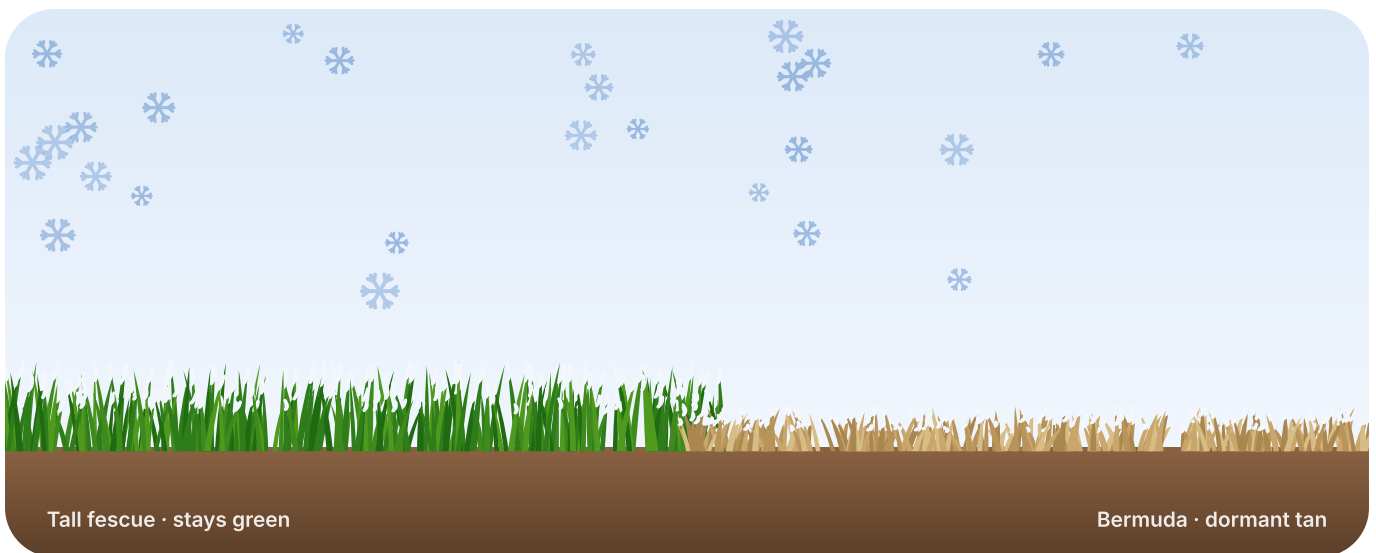
Nashville Aeration Co.

Let your lawn breathe.

Winter Lawn Guide · December–February

Winter. Rest, protect, plan.

Nashville lawns slow down in winter, but they don't stop. Tall fescue stays green and Bermuda sleeps. A few simple moves now protect your grass and set up a stronger spring.



Tall fescue · stays green

Bermuda · dormant tan

0 lb

Nitrogen your lawn needs December–February. Fescue's mid-November feeding is the last until March.

55°F

Wait for mild days at or above this temperature to treat winter weeds.

\$15

A basic soil test at UT's lab in Nashville. Winter is the perfect time to send one.

01 • Month by month

Winter, month by month.

Fescue keeps growing slowly in mild spells. Bermuda and zoysia stay dormant until spring warms the soil.

● TALL FESCUE

December

Slow down

- **Keep leaves off.** A matted layer blocks light and weakens grass.
- Mow during mild spells if it's still growing, at the same 3–4 inches.
- **No fertilizer** until March.
- Stay off frosted grass until it thaws.

January

Test & tidy

- **Send a soil test** — results come back in time to plan spring.
- Spot-treat winter weeds on mild days. Results are slower in cold weather.
- Use a lawn-friendlier ice melt, and don't pile salty snow on the grass.

February

Get ready

- **Service the mower** and sharpen or replace the blade.
- **Buy crabgrass preventer** so it's ready when forsythia blooms.
- Bare spots? Late February–March is the backup seeding window. Skip preventer on those spots, or use a seed-safe product.
- Spread lime if your soil test called for it.

● BERMUDA & ZOYSIA

- Fully dormant and straw-colored. That's normal and healthy.
- Keep leaves and debris off.
- Spread out foot traffic. Dormant grass can't repair wear until spring.

- Green winter weeds in **fully dormant** Bermuda can be spot-treated on days above 55°F, with a product labeled for dormant Bermuda.
- Send a soil test.
- Note thin spots and weedy areas while they're easy to see.

- Service the mower and buy crabgrass preventer.
- Stop non-selective weed sprays as green-up approaches. Bermuda that's waking up can be injured.
- Plan Bermuda and zoysia aeration for late May–early July.



Spring is closer than it looks. Fescue is ready for its first light feeding in March. Bermuda and zoysia green up as the soil warms, typically April into May, so hold their fertilizer until they're fully green.

02 · Key topics

Protect it now.

Small winter habits that prevent spring repairs.



Frost, traffic & dormant grass

- **Stay off frosted grass.** Frozen leaves are brittle. Walking on them can rupture plant cells and leave brown footprints. Wait until the frost melts.
- **Fescue stays green** and grows a little on mild days. Mow only if it needs it.
- **Bermuda and zoysia turn tan** after frost and stay dormant until spring warms the soil. Brown is normal.
- **Spread out traffic** on dormant lawns — worn paths can't recover until spring.



Send a soil test

- UT's Soil, Plant and Pest Center in Nashville runs a basic nutrient test for **\$15** (2026 fee).
- Collect soil 6 inches deep from about 10 spots. Mix, air-dry and send about 1 cup.
- Get a box and form from your county Extension office (Davidson County: 615-862-5995).
- You'll get pH, nutrients and exact lime and fertilizer advice.



Ice melt without the damage

- Rock salt (sodium chloride) is the hardest on turf.
- Calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, potassium chloride and CMA are gentler choices. Sand adds traction with no salt.
- Shovel first and use less. Don't throw salty snow onto the lawn.
- In spring, water salt-exposed edges heavily to flush the salt out.



Late leaves

Oaks often hold leaves into winter. Keep clearing them. A wet, matted layer blocks light and weakens fescue. Mulch light layers with the mower, and bag or blow heavy ones.



Winter weeds

Henbit, chickweed and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) grow all winter. Treat them on mild days, following the label. Prevention works best: a weed preventer in late August or September on Bermuda lawns, and a thick fescue lawn from fall seeding.

03 · Plan the year

Set up a better spring.



Mower care

February is the time to service the mower: fresh oil, a clean deck, and a sharp blade. UT Extension recommends sharpening or replacing blades at least once a year — dull blades shred grass tips and invite disease.



Moles

Tunnels often show up in late winter and spring. UT Extension notes that grubs make up only a small part of a mole's diet, so grub control alone rarely solves it. Traps set in active tunnels are the most reliable fix.



Sprinkler system

Nashville winters are usually wet enough that lawns need no irrigation. Protect your system's backflow preventer and exposed pipes from hard freezes, following your installer's guidance.



Mark your calendar

March	Crabgrass preventer at forsythia bloom
Mar–Apr	Light fescue feedings
May	Feed Bermuda after full green-up
Late May–July	Bermuda and zoysia aeration
Late Aug–Oct	Fescue aeration and seeding

Your winter checklist

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Leaves cleared from the lawn | ☐ Soil test sent |
| ☐ Mower serviced, blade sharpened | ☐ Crabgrass preventer purchased |
| ☐ Lawn-friendly ice melt on hand | ☐ Sprinkler backflow protected from freezes |

Avoid these winter mistakes

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Walking on frosted grass | ☒ Rock salt on or near the lawn |
| ☒ Winter fertilizer | ☒ Leaving leaves on the lawn all winter |
| ☒ Non-selective sprays on Bermuda that's greening up | ☒ Waiting until March to service the mower |

Based on University of Tennessee Extension publications PB1903, PB1303, W203, W205, D141, W159-A, W159-H and the UT Soil, Plant and Pest Center, plus Purdue Extension on frost traffic and deicing salts. Always follow product labels.



Questions? We're here to help.

Proudly serving Lenox Village, Nippers Corner, Antioch, Cane Ridge, Crieve Hall and nearby Brentwood and Nolensville.

nashvilleaeration.com

Request service at
nashvilleaeration.com/contact