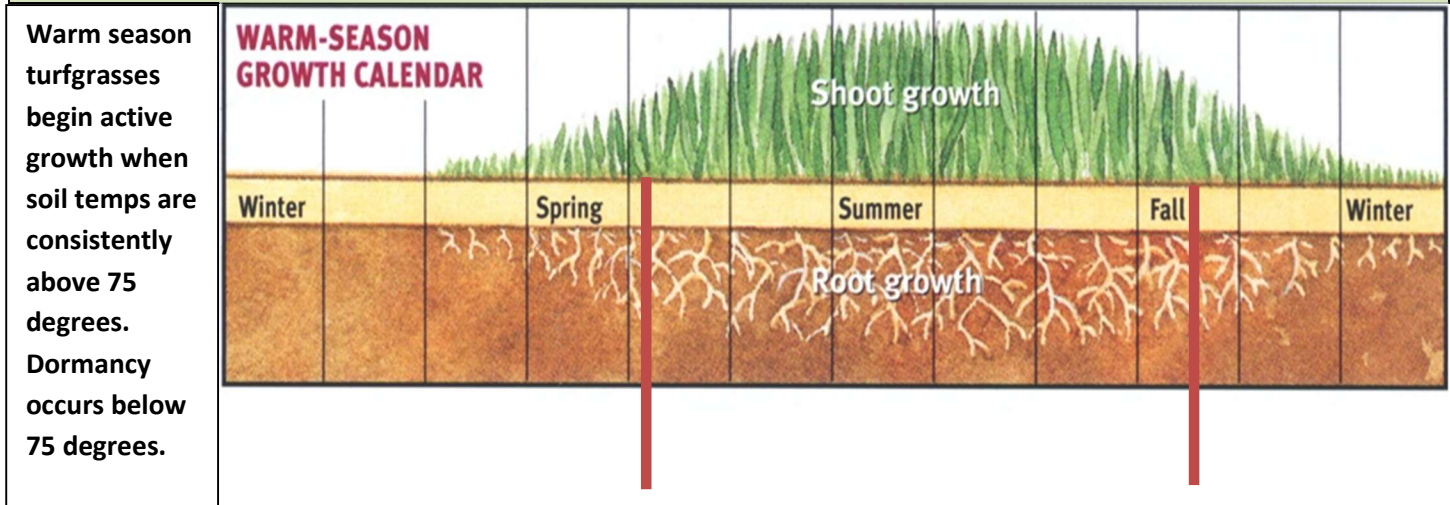


Montgomery County Lawn Care Chart



Red lines indicate 75 Degree Soil Temperatures (10 Year Average)

*CHORE													
<i>Water</i>	Reduce Watering! During Dormancy Turn off			Turfgrass requires 1" of water per week ONLY during the active growing season. (see "HOW TO PERFORM AN IRRIGATION AUDIT" chart)						Reduce Watering! During Dormancy Turn off			
<i>Insects</i>							Monitor for Chinch Bugs and White Grubs - Treat as needed						
<i>Weeds</i>	Apply Pre- emergent for Warm Season Annual Weeds							Apply Pre- emergent for Cool Season Annual Weeds					
Post-emergent treatments for weed control as needed to reduce populations													
<i>Fungus</i>	Monitor for Large Patch (Mid- Feb through Mid-April) & (Oct. & Nov.) & Take-All-Patch (Mid-May through August)												
**Fungal Prevention Treatments	Preventative Fungicide for Large Patch		Preventative Fungicide for Take-All- Patch				Preventative Fungicide for Large Patch						
***Fertilization				Spring					Fall				
MONTH	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	

***All categories under the "CHORE" column are directly affected by environmental factors (ex. Temperature, Soil Temperature, Rainfall) Timing may need to be adjusted depending on the environmental conditions.**

****Fungal Preventative Treatments:** Proper identification is the key. (see below "Diagnosis Assistance") Preventative fungicide treatments can be effective if applied at the right time. (prior to visual symptoms) If a fungal issue is present, reduce fertilization. High nitrogen applications can increase fungal growth and damage the lawn further. Fungicides are preventative and not curative.

Diagnostic Assistance: Turfgrass samples need to contain a minimum of a 10"x10" sample of the marginal area (good and bad area) and include roots and soil (1" deep) placed in sealed 1 gallon bags. Photos can also be sent the Master Gardener Help Desk via email to mcmga9020@gmail.com for diagnosis assistance. Or you can call the Help Desk at 936-539-7824

*****Fertilization:** A soil test conducted every 3-5 years ensures proper nutrient application. Generally, a recommended 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer is sufficient. However, a detailed soil test is specific to the needs of the turfgrass. When fungal issues are present, fertilization should be reduced or eliminated until the fungal issue is resolved.

Timing for fertilization coincides with soil temperatures. When soil temperatures are above 75 consistently, the turfgrass will uptake nutrients to its fullest extent. Utilizing slow release or natural fertilizers provides a larger window for application.

Soil test information and kits can be obtained at the Extension Office or at: <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>.

Fertilization Rate Chart	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Application Rate (lbs/1000 sq.ft.)</u>
	3-1-2	6-2-4	16
	3-1-2	12-4-8	8
	3-1-2	15-5-10	7
	3-1-2	21-7-14	5

The above Application Rate is based on 1 lb of Nitrogen/1000 sq. ft.

Irrigation

HOW TO PERFORM AN IRRIGATION AUDIT

Inspect all irrigation heads for functionality. Check each nozzle for obstructions that may impede the distribution of water. Next, set out a series of cups in a grid pattern over the field or a specific zone of the irrigation system. Then, turn on the sprinklers for a specified amount of time. After the irrigation is off, measure the amount or depth of water in each cup or can. When all cups are collected, find an average amount or depth of water in each cup and use that to determine the application rate per hour.

Example:

5 measuring cups were used and the irrigation system was run for fifteen minutes. All cups were measured as follows:
 $0.25" + 0.3" + 0.27" + 0.22" + 0.3" = 1.34" \div 5 \text{ cups} = 0.268" \text{ avg. in fifteen minutes.}$
 $0.268" \text{ per 15 minutes} = x"/60 \text{ minutes, } x = 1.072" \text{ per hour.}$

Turfgrasses require 1" of irrigation a week during the growing season. (May - mid-October) Soil temperatures consistently above 75 degrees will initiate active growth thus initiating water usage. Irrigation should be reduced when measurable rainfall occurs.

Step Test: Walk 10 paces across the lawn. Turn around to view footprints. Turfgrass, when enough water is present in the leaves, will bounce back and no footprints will be visible. If footprints are visible at the halfway point to your standing point, then irrigation is needed in the next few days.