

These are the basics. Three conditions are needed to promote growth of Bermuda grass:

1. 🌞 Hot sunny weather
2. 🌞 Plenty of water
3. 🌞 Plenty of fertilizer

Lime and other chemicals may occasionally be needed. Bermuda needs lots of nitrogen (the first number on the fertilizer bag). For a nice Bermuda lawn, mow frequently, keep the mower blade sharp, and edge the lawn as needed.

Bermuda begins to green-up with the first warm weather—late winter to early spring. Given the proper conditions, it grows vigorously through the hot weather months, then slows down as the weather cools in the fall. The first frost sends Bermuda into its dormant period—it stops growing, turns light tan, and dries out.

Mowing Bermuda grass

Bermuda does best when cut relatively short. A reel-type mower is best, but a rotary mower is okay. Keep the blade(s) sharp always and avoid mowing the grass when the lawn is very wet. It's best to "catch" and dispose of the clippings, but this isn't absolutely necessary. If you do not catch and discard the clippings with each mowing, a "thatch" will build up in the lawn that will eventually have to be removed.

So remember that Bermuda loves:

1. 🌞 Hot sunny weather
2. 🌞 High-nitrogen fertilizer
3. 🌞 Water

You should mow frequently, but don't mow when the grass is very wet. If you get behind on mowing, raise the blade so you do not cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blades. Several days later, lower the blade and mow again. Keep your mower blade(s) sharp to prevent harming the grass.

If you fertilize properly, you won't need to use weed killers very often. When lawns are not properly fertilized, the weeds take over and the grass dies out! During the growing season, Bermuda needs to be fed (fertilized) about every five to six weeks.

You may also wish to use a pre-emergent on the lawn twice each year; in late February to prevent crabgrass seeds from germinating later, and in early November to help prevent [poa annua](#) (a small dark-green grass-like weed) from coming up.

Bermuda Grass Care Schedule

January—When Bermuda is completely dormant, you can mist any weeds noted with a non-selective vegetation killer like Round-Up or Finale without harming the sleeping Bermuda. But, this must be done before any green-up! Round-Up will kill anything green it touches, including grass!

Late February—If the dormant Bermuda grass is full of wild onions, the soil is too acidic. Apply lots of lime to the lawn, 40 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.). If crabgrass has been a problem the previous spring/summer, apply a pre-emergent crabgrass preventer.

March-April (When you expect no more freezing temperatures overnight)—Cut (mow) Bermuda as short as possible; catch and remove dead grass. Fertilize with a quality fertilizer high in nitrogen ([Scotts Turf Builder](#)). Every other year, aerate lawn with aerator that pulls up soil plugs. Aerating allows water and fertilizer to reach the grass roots more easily. After aerating, drag a doormat or something over the lawn to break up the dirt plugs. But, if you have an in-ground sprinkler system, you may wish do skip aeration because the machine may damage the sprinkler heads!

May—Fertilize with a quality fertilizer high in nitrogen ([Scotts Turf Builder](#)). If weeds other than crabgrass are noted in the lawn, treat with weed killer. If you fertilize the lawn regularly, you won't need much weed killer!

July—Fertilize with a quality fertilizer high in nitrogen ([Scotts Turf Builder](#)).

August—Apply insecticide for grub control, if needed. Grubs are small one-inch worms that eat grass roots and cause the lawn to go off-color and look bad.

September—Last fertilization this growing season. Fertilize with a quality fertilizer high in nitrogen ([Scotts Turf Builder](#)) or better still, [Scotts Winterizer](#). Raise mower blade to let grass grow longer to help prevent damage to grass roots in sub-freezing weather.

Early November—If [poa annua](#) (a small dark-green grass-like weed) has been a problem, apply a pre-emergent weed preventer now to prevent its appearance in late fall or winter.