

Rainbow Gardens Lawn Fertilization Schedule
For warm season southern grasses in South Central Texas including:
St. Augustine, Bermuda and Zoysia

Fertilizing your lawn on a regular schedule is your BEST defense against weeds, fungus, and insect damage!

We recommend fertilizing your turf AT LEAST twice a year, in spring and in fall. However, if your lawn is badly damaged, you may benefit from the additional feedings listed between the spring and fall recommendations. The following dates are guidelines for when to make your fertilizer applications. Keep in mind that the weather is really what we need to go by. It can dictate an earlier or later application time.

Late March - Late April For Spring Feeding Grass must be actively growing to absorb fertilizer properly. After the second mowing of the season, apply a simple 19-5-9 formula for an early green-up. Rainbow Gardens' premium lawn fertilizer is specially formulated for our region.

Mid May - Early August For Summer Feeding (if necessary). Apply slow-release 3-1-2 or 3-0-2 fertilizers or a liquid lawn fertilizer like Medina's Hasta-Gro lawn food.

June-September Chelated Iron application (if needed) - When turf grass looks yellow (iron chlorosis), use apply a granular or liquid iron supplement. Every second or third month during the warm season should be enough. Hi-Yield Iron Plus granules and Dr.Iron are two excellent choices. Stay away from Ironite.....it doesn't have much effect in our alkaline (high PH) soils.

October-November For Fall Feeding - Apply winterizing formulas for winter hardiness. Ratios vary, but make sure they are "winter" or "fall" formulas designed for southern grasses. Rainbow Garden's 18-6-12 winterizer formula is a great choice These formulas will make lawns winter-hardy and provide for early spring green up.

Recommended lawn fertilizer formulas:

19-5-9 + minors	Rainbow Gardens Premium Lawn/Tree & Shrub Food
18-0-6 + Trace	Fertilome Greenmaker
24-0-10	Fertilome + Chelated Iron Premium Lawn Food
18-6-12 + minors	Rainbow Gardens Premium Fall Winterizer Lawn/Tree & Shrub Food
6-1-2	Nature's Creation organic (Manure Free)
6-2-4	Texas Tee organic
3-2-3	Medina Growin' Green organic

Try your best when applying fertilizers (synthetic or organic) to keep it on the turf as much as you can. Avoid over-spreading onto sidewalks, driveways and streets, as this leads to run off. Fertilizers with iron can stain concrete. Nitrogen and phosphorous are great for the lawn but not for our water supply.

What do the numbers on the bag mean? They are the ratio of nitrogen (N) to phosphorous (P) to potassium (K).

Great, so what do they do? Nitrogen is responsible for making turf green, phosphorous (slower-acting) promotes root development, and potassium works to feed turf and keep it strong during drought or other stressful conditions.

What's the big difference between synthetic and organic fertilizers?

Both organic and synthetic fertilizers contain active NPK ingredients. It's the source from where those ingredients come from that is different. Synthetic fertilizers get their NPK from chemicals. Organic fertilizers get their NPK from naturally derived elements, like manure, biosolids, and the like.

So which should I choose? This is a decision you will ultimately need to make, but here are a few differences:

Synthetic fertilizers offer quick turn around and fast green-up as their chemical ingredients are more readily available to be used right away in the fertilization process. Synthetic fertilizers are usually less costly.

Organic fertilizers take a little longer to work as their ingredients must be naturally broken down and processed in order to be used. However, most organic fertilizers actually increase the health of your soil by improving its ability to digest and absorb the fertilizer ingredients.

Soil Testing

If you continue to have issues with your lawn, it might be time to have your soil tested. The turf on top can't do much if the soil below is horrible.

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