

Lawn Care Calendar

# Centipedegrass

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*These suggested maintenance practices will help you care for your lawn throughout the year. Because every site is different, due to variations in location, terrain, soil type, condition of lawn, previous lawn care and other factors, adjust these practices and dates to suit your home lawn.*

Centipedegrass is a slow-growing, apple green, coarse-leaved turfgrass that is used for low maintenance, general-purpose turfgrass. It requires little fertilizer (1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per year), infrequent mowing and grows well in full sun to moderate shade. It does not tolerate traffic, compaction, high-phosphorus soils, high pH, low-potassium soils, excessive thatch, drought or heavy shade.

Centipedegrass is susceptible to a number of pests. Symptoms include small circular dead areas after several years of good performance. Areas do not green up in the spring or begin to die in late spring or during drought stress. Grass at the edge of affected areas may yellow, wilt and die. Possible causes include nematodes, ground pearls (an insect) and fairy ring (a disease). Fairy rings appear as circular green or dead areas that continue to enlarge for several years. Injury from certain broadleaf weed control herbicides and mismanagement can also display these symptoms. Continual loss of centipedegrass may indicate the need to choose another grass species. Centipedegrass is best suited for the southern half of Arkansas.

**March Through May**

<b>Mowing</b>	Mow lawn at 1 inch at time of initial greenup. Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2 inches tall. Do not burn centipedegrass to remove excessive debris because of possible injury to the lawn and potential fire hazard.
<b>Fertilization</b>	DO NOT apply nitrogen at this time. Yellow appearance may be an indication of iron deficiency. Spray iron ferrous sulfate (2 ounces in water per 1,000 square feet ) or a chelated iron source to enhance color as needed. Follow label directions.
<b>Watering</b>	Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is needed for growing centipedegrass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering; i.e., 1/2 inch of water every third day. Proper irrigation may prevent or reduce problems later in the summer.
<b>Weed Control</b>	Apply preemergence herbicides to control crabgrass in late February to early March. Apply postemergence herbicides in May as needed for control of summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds such as knotweed, spurge, lespedeza, etc. Do not apply postemergence herbicides until approximately three weeks after the grass turns green. Centipedegrass is sensitive to 2,4-D, so follow label directions and use with caution. Look for broadleaf weed control products formulated for southern lawns. Vantage herbicide is safe to use for postemergence grass control. Do not use MSMA on centipedegrass. See FSA 2109, <i>Home Lawn Weed Control</i> , for more weed control information.

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### March Through May (cont.)

<b>Insect Control</b>	Check for white grubs and control if necessary.
<b>Renovation</b>	Replant large bare areas in May using seed (1/4 to 1/2 pound per 1,000 square feet) or sprigs (3/4 bushel per 1,000 square feet). Mixing seed with 2 gallons of fine sand per 1,000 square feet will aid in distribution. Germination is expected in 28 days, but establishment is slow. Keep seedbed continually moist with light, frequent sprinklings several times a day to ensure good germination. Three years for complete establishment of a new lawn is not uncommon. Sodding is the most practical way to establish centipedegrass.

### June Through August

<b>Mowing</b>	Mow lawn at 1 inch. Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2 inches tall.
<b>Fertilization</b>	Fertilize with 1/2 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet (once a year) in mid-June using a high potassium fertilizer (for example: 5-5-15, 6-6-12, 8-8-24). Fertilizers without phosphorus (for example: 15-0-14, 8-0-24) are preferred if soils exhibit moderate-to-high levels of phosphorus. Many Arkansas soils are high in phosphorous. Soil test to determine phosphorous levels. Yellow appearance may indicate an iron deficiency. Spray iron (ferrous) sulfate (2 ounces in water per 1,000 square feet) or a chelated iron source to enhance color as needed. Follow label directions.
<b>Watering</b>	Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is needed for growing centipedegrass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering; i.e., 1/2 inch of water every third day.
<b>Weed Control</b>	Apply postemergence herbicides as needed for control of summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, such as knotweed, spurge, lespedeza, etc. Centipedegrass is sensitive to 2,4-D and MSMA. Follow label directions and use with caution. Do not apply herbicides unless grass and weeds are actively growing and lawn is not suffering from drought stress.
<b>Insect Control</b>	Check for white grubs and control if necessary.

### September Through November

<b>Mowing</b>	Mow lawn at 1 inch. Mow before grass gets above 1 1/2 inches tall. Raise mowing height to 1 1/2 inches several weeks before expected frost.
<b>Fertilization</b>	Fertilize with 1 pound of potash per 1,000 square feet 4 to 6 weeks before expected frost using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-62) per 1,000 square feet. Do not lime centipedegrass unless recommended by soil test.
<b>Watering</b>	Water to prevent drought stress. About 1 inch of water per application each week is sufficient for growing centipedegrass. Sandy soils often require more frequent watering; i.e., 1/2 inch of water every third day. Water following onset of dormancy (browning of foliage) if needed to prevent excessive dehydration.
<b>Insect Control</b>	Check for white grubs and control if necessary.

### December Through February

<b>Mowing</b>	Remove lawn debris (rocks, sticks and leaves). Do not burn centipedegrass to remove excessive debris.
<b>Fertilization</b>	Do not fertilize centipedegrass at this time. Submit soil samples for analysis every 3 years to determine nutrient requirements. Be sure to specify centipedegrass. (Contact your county Extension office for details.) Apply lime or sulfur if suggested (based on soil test) to raise or reduce soil pH, respectively. Do not lime centipedegrass unless recommended by soil test.
<b>Watering</b>	Water to prevent excessive dehydration.
<b>Weed Control</b>	Apply broadleaf herbicides as necessary for control of chickweed, henbit, etc. Centipedegrass is sensitive to 2,4-D, so follow label directions for reducing rates and use with caution. Selected herbicides atrazine or simazine may be applied in November or December for control of annual bluegrass and several winter annual broadleaf weeds.

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