

Table 1

Houston Grass Tipsheet for Established Grass	
	Houston Grass
	213 McKeever Rd.
	Arcola, TX 777583
	281-431-7441
	The following addresses some of the issues facing St. Augustine Grasses. The watering, fertilizing and mowing requirements for the Bermuda and Zoysia grasses will differ slightly. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 281-431-7441.
Please Note	These are only guidelines for lawn care. Houston Grass is not responsible for grass once installed. Established grass generally means grass that was planted at least a year ago. No herbicides should be applied to grass less than a year old. For watering, mowing, fertilizing and pesticides, your grass is established after six months if it was planted at the beginning of the growing season.
Watering Established Grass	
Note	*Note that with average water pressure, a “wand” style sprinkler will put out about two-tenths of water per hour so it takes 5 hours to put out 1 inch of water. To verify your particular water output, purchase a rain gauge and put it in the area to be watered. If you have a sprinkler system, we would highly recommend that you do this.
January-March	One inch every 2-3 weeks. Be sure to compensate for rainfall
April-September	One inch (two half-inch waterings if runoff is an issue) every week. If you come home in the evening and you see some stress in your grass with the blades kind of closed up, you should increase that watering to three half-inch waterings per week. Again, a rain gauge is the most accurate way to measure the water your grass is getting.
October	Once the daytime temperature consistently stays below 80 degrees, we recommend that you reduce watering to 1 inch every 2-3 weeks so as to not promote Brown Patch.
November-December	One inch every 2-3 weeks compensating for rainfall.
Mowing Established Grass	
Notes	You never want to remove more than 1/3 of the grass leaf because you’ll stress the grass if you do. During the growing season, you’re likely doing that if you wait more than 7 days between mowings. If you’re watering and fertilizing and have good topsoil, you may need to mow every 4-5 days. Other than the first post-frost mowing, we recommend that you do not remove grass clippings as they provide a good source of nitrogen and organic matter.
January-March	The first mowing of the year after the last frost (usually mid-March) lower the mower blade and cut off the dead material. Rake it or bag the dead grass to reduce the thatch on your lawn.
April-May	Mowing height may be adjusted downward to 2.5 - 3.0 inches. Remember to never remove more than one-third of the leaf--this causes undue stress on the grass.
June-September	Mowing height should be adjusted upward to 3.5 - 4 inches to help hold moisture in the soil and increase drought tolerance.
October	Once the daytime temperature starts to fall, the mowing height may be adjusted back downward to 3.0 inches. Note that after the first frost, your grass is going to begin to turn brown. This is the grass transitioning into dormancy and will remain brown until temperatures begin to rise in the spring. There will be little to no growth except for winter weeds. We suggest mowing those instead of treating with chemicals.
November-December	Three inches
Fertilizing Established Grass	
Notes	Follow the label on the bag.
January-February	None.

Houston Grass Tipsheet for Established Grass	
March	We recommend the use of Nitro-Phos fertilizers. We recommend Nitro-Phos Imperial if weeds are not a problem. If a weed and feed is needed for a St. Augustine lawn, we recommend Nitro-Phos 15-5-10 with Atrazine. If a weed and feed is needed for a Bermuda, Zoysia or St. Augustine lawn, we recommend Nitro-Phos 15-5-10 with Trimec. CAUTION: These chemicals will kill plants & ornamental flowers, so be careful when applying. Do not apply weed and feeds with Atrazine to Bermuda grass or Zoysia lawns.
May-June	We recommend Nitro-Phos Superturf 19-4-10. Apply at the rate recommended by the label on the bag.
August	We recommend Nitro-Phos Superturf 19-4-10. Apply at the rate recommended by the label on the bag.
October-December	We recommend Nitro-Phos Fall Special Fertilizer 8-12-16. Apply at the rate recommended by the label on the bag.
Pesticides	
Note	You shouldn't treat preventatively with pesticides. Use pesticides when you see signs of insect damage. Sod webworms and chinch bugs can cause a lot of damage quickly, so you should treat quickly when you see signs of damage. Call us at 281-431-7441 if you have questions.
January-May	None.
June-September	Chinch Bug & Sod Webworm Season - Chinch bug damage looks very similar to drought stress. First signs of chinch bugs are found near concrete and warmer, drier areas of the yard. If you see softball to soccer ball sized circles eaten in the yard, you likely have sod webworms. It might look like somebody took a weed eater to make the circles. That's where those sod webworms are coming up out of the thatch layer at night and eating around their nest and then they go back into the ground as the sun comes up. A variety of liquids (we recommend and carry Cyonara) and granular (we recommend and carry Wisdom) insecticides are available to control chinch bugs and sod webworms. Be sure and follow label instructions carefully.
October-December	None
Herbicides - Never Apply on Grass Less than One Year Old	
January-March	Suggest mowing when winter weeds appear as opposed to treating with chemicals. Apply Nitro-Phos Barricade Preemergent herbicide in February.
April	If a weed and feed is needed for a St. Augustine lawn, we recommend Nitro-Phos 15-5-10 with Atrazine. If a weed and feed is needed for a Bermuda, Zoysia or St. Augustine lawn, we recommend Nitro-Phos 15-5-10 with Trimec. CAUTION: these chemicals will kill plants & ornamental flowers, be careful when applying! Do not apply weed and feeds with Atrazine to Bermuda grass or Zoysia grass lawns.
May-September	Nitro-Phos Barricade Preemergent herbicide in May.
October-November	Nitro-Phos Barricade Preemergent herbicide
December	Suggest mowing when winter weeds appear as opposed to treating with chemicals.
Fungicides for Established Grass	
January-February	None
March-April	The primary fungus that St. Augustine must contend with is brown patch which normally appears in March and September during temperature transitions. Once the daytime temperature is between 75-85 degrees and the nighttime temperature is below 68 degrees, the conditions begin to be conducive to the disease. Look for a circle with a gold ring around the edge. Heritage G should be applied when you see the first signs and then again 21 days later.
May-August	Be on the lookout for gray leaf spot. Signs are a "sick" yellow color & brown freckles on the blades. Heritage G should be applied when you see the first signs and then again 21 days later.
September	Begin watching for brown patch in low lying wet areas. Heritage G should be applied when you see the first signs and then again 21 days later.
October	Tis the season for brown patch again! Heritage G should be applied when you see the first signs and then again 21 days later.
November-December	None