

FINE FESCUE IN IOWA

COOL-SEASON LAWN CALENDAR

Weather overrides the month. Use favorable cool growth for repair; protect turf through heat, frost or saturation. Prepare water equipment before your first local freeze, even if earlier than shown.

01 JANUARY Protect the surface Keep repeated traffic off frosted, frozen or saturated turf. Note where water collects. Check: Growing in a mild winter? Mow only as needed.	02 FEBRUARY Prepare the kit Check the species and mixture label before repairing. Check: Confirm the grass or seed mixture before ordering.	03 MARCH Watch the restart Inspect winter damage after thaw. Wait for firm ground before raking or mowing. Check: Use local weed timing; check any seeding restrictions.
04 APRIL Follow spring growth Mow at the local height for your grass. Check irrigation for leaks and blocked coverage. Check: Avoid heavy equipment on soft, wet soil.	05 MAY Measure water Compare rain and irrigation with root-zone moisture. Check thin areas before buying treatments. Check: Feed only if the local nutrient plan calls for it.	06 JUNE Ease summer stress Keep the mower sharp and leave enough leaf. Reduce wear where growth slows. Check: Postpone disruptive work during heat or drought.
07 JULY Check the dry spots Compare affected and healthy areas. Inspect sprinkler coverage before extending watering everywhere. Check: Keep fertility modest; heavy wear and deep shade still limit growth.	08 AUGUST Plan the repair window Measure bare areas and arrange suitable seed. Plan necessary coring around recovery conditions. Check: Wait for favorable weather and enough time to establish.	09 SEPTEMBER Repair if conditions fit Reseed or core only where needed during a suitable cool growing window. Protect new seedlings. Check: Check frost outlook, local timing and recent herbicides.
10 OCTOBER Keep light reaching turf Remove heavy leaf cover and mow while growth continues. Recheck repaired patches. Check: Late feeding or seeding depends on local guidance.	11 NOVEMBER Wind down as needed Keep leaves from matting and protect wet turf. Winterize water equipment where freezing is expected. Check: Do not apply fertilizer to frozen or snow-covered soil.	12 DECEMBER Review the year Save photos, seed labels and your care log. Pick one recurring problem to investigate. Check: A mild site may still need mowing and moisture checks.

Plan establishment with time for roots to develop before heat or freezing conditions.

LAWN AREA: _____ GRASS / CULTIVAR: _____

Use current local advice and product labels. New seed, sod and plugs need separate establishment care. This is a planning sheet, not a monthly treatment schedule.

Minnesota Extension: Renovating a lawn for quality and sustainability
USDA: Land-grant university directory



FULL GUIDE