

# FINE FESCUE IN ILLINOIS

## 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.

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| <div>01 JANUARY</div> <div>Protect the surface</div> <div>Keep repeated traffic off frosted, frozen or saturated turf. Note where water collects. Check: Growing in a mild winter? Mow only as needed.</div>                                  | <div>02 FEBRUARY</div> <div>Prepare the kit</div> <div>Check the species and mixture label before repairing. Check: Confirm the grass or seed mixture before ordering.</div>                                                         | <div>03 MARCH</div> <div>Watch the restart</div> <div>Inspect winter damage after thaw. Wait for firm ground before raking or mowing. Check: Use local weed timing; check any seeding restrictions.</div>                             |
| <div>04 APRIL</div> <div>Follow spring growth</div> <div>Mow at the local height for your grass. Check irrigation for leaks and blocked coverage. Check: Avoid heavy equipment on soft, wet soil.</div>                                       | <div>05 MAY</div> <div>Measure water</div> <div>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.</div>                      | <div>06 JUNE</div> <div>Ease summer stress</div> <div>Keep the mower sharp and leave enough leaf. Reduce wear where growth slows. Check: Postpone disruptive work during heat or drought.</div>                                       |
| <div>07 JULY</div> <div>Check the dry spots</div> <div>Compare affected and healthy areas. Inspect sprinkler coverage before extending watering everywhere. Check: Keep fertility modest; heavy wear and deep shade still limit growth.</div> | <div>08 AUGUST</div> <div>Plan the repair window</div> <div>Measure bare areas and arrange suitable seed. Plan necessary coring around recovery conditions. Check: Wait for favorable weather and enough time to establish.</div>    | <div>09 SEPTEMBER</div> <div>Repair if conditions fit</div> <div>Reseed or core only where needed during a suitable cool growing window. Protect new seedlings. Check: Check frost outlook, local timing and recent herbicides.</div> |
| <div>10 OCTOBER</div> <div>Keep light reaching turf</div> <div>Remove heavy leaf cover and mow while growth continues. Recheck repaired patches. Check: Late feeding or seeding depends on local guidance.</div>                              | <div>11 NOVEMBER</div> <div>Wind down as needed</div> <div>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.</div> | <div>12 DECEMBER</div> <div>Review the year</div> <div>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.</div>                     |

Choose a repair window around your local growing season and the grass already present.

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