

A LAWN IN THE SHADE

YOUR MONTH-BY-MONTH FIELD NOTES

Use months as reminders; local weather, grass growth and establishment stage take priority. Move freeze preparation ahead of your first local freeze, even if earlier than shown.

01 JANUARY Map the space Mark tree trunks, recurring bare areas and the routes people use.	02 FEBRUARY Choose a test patch Plan one small trial; deep shade may be better as a bed or path.	03 MARCH Watch spring light Photograph morning, midday and afternoon light as foliage changes.
04 APRIL Protect roots Avoid filling over or cutting major roots to create a smoother lawn.	05 MAY Measure leaf-on shade Where trees are in leaf, record direct sunlight on the struggling patch.	06 JUNE Separate water needs Compare shaded soil with sunny turf before changing irrigation.
07 JULY Reduce wear Reroute repeated play or walking across thin shaded grass.	08 AUGUST Plan suitable repair Ask locally which grass or alternative groundcover fits your light and climate.	09 SEPTEMBER Test in season Repair the trial only if your grass has a favorable establishment window.
10 OCTOBER Manage leaf cover Remove heavy accumulations gently; avoid damaging exposed roots.	11 NOVEMBER Compare the trial Photograph density and wear against the untreated area.	12 DECEMBER Choose next year's surface Keep suitable turf; plan a deliberate bed or path where grass repeatedly fails.

Observe the cause | Choose the right growing window | Keep a short photo and care log

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.

Penn State Extension · Growing turf under shaded conditions



FULL GUIDE