

KNOW WHAT YOUR SOIL NEEDS

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 Read past results Match each soil report to the lawn area and grass it actually describes.	02 FEBRUARY Ask the lab Confirm sampling depth, containers, timing and separate-area instructions before collecting soil.	03 MARCH Sample suitable ground Avoid contaminated spots and follow lab directions; wait if soil conditions prevent a useful sample.
04 APRIL Map separate areas Keep distinctly different soil or management areas separate when the lab recommends it.	05 MAY Interpret the recommendation Ask how results translate into the grass's nutrient and pH needs.	06 JUNE Measure before applying Use actual turf area and the current label; a bag's grade is not an application rate.
07 JULY Investigate pale patches Check roots, moisture and shade before assuming a nutrient deficiency.	08 AUGUST Plan justified amendments Only add lime, sulfur or nutrients for a clear recommendation and suitable timing.	09 SEPTEMBER Keep an application log Record material, amount, area and date when any recommended work is done.
10 OCTOBER Check local restrictions Fertilizer rules and seasonal limits vary; verify them before applying.	11 NOVEMBER Protect dormant ground Avoid fertilizer on frozen or snow-covered soil and keep material off paving.	12 DECEMBER Plan the next test Use the laboratory's retesting interval rather than changing pH repeatedly without evidence.

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.

University of Minnesota Extension · Soil testing for lawns and gardens



FULL GUIDE