

Table 1

Houston Grass Tipsheet for Newly Installed 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.
<b>Please Note</b>	<b>*These are only guidelines for lawn care. Houston Grass is not responsible for grass once installed.*</b>
	Watering - The month refers to the month the grass is installed.
<b>Notes</b>	Note that with average water pressure, a portable style sprinkler might put out about two-tenths of an inch of water per hour so it takes 5 hours to put out 1 inch of water. <b>You should verify your water output from portable sprinklers or an irrigation system by using rain gauges in the areas to be watered.</b> Most people overestimate the amount of water they're putting down on that first day of installation. If you see water running out into the street before you've watered enough, that's likely caused by a slope in your yard. You may want to water 2-3 hours at a time so the water can soak in without running off. <b>But it is very very important to get down that recommended amount of water that first day.</b> A rain gauge is the best way to measure the amount of water your sprinkler or irrigation system and Mother Nature are putting on your grass.
<b>January-March</b>	We recommend 1 inch (5 hours with a portable sprinkler) the day grass is installed or until it is squishy. Then 1 inch every 7-10 days. When you can no longer pick up corners, reduce watering to 1 inch every 2-3 weeks. A good rule of thumb is if you can stick your finger into the ground and mud sticks to it, then you do not need to water. If the ground is hard and you do not feel any moisture, then turn the water on. Be sure to compensate for rainfall.
<b>April</b>	Once daytime temperature consistently exceeds 80 degrees, watering requirements must be increased to 1.5-2.0 inches (8-10 hours with portable sprinkler) on the day the grass is installed or until the sod is squishy. Then 1/2 inch (about 2 hours) every other day for 2 weeks. When you can no longer pick up corners, reduce to 1 inch a week (ideally you would do this in two-1/2 inch waterings to prevent runoff). You might break up the half-inch waterings into one hour, twice a day. Again the best way to measure the watering is with a rain gauge.
<b>May-September</b>	1.5-2.0 inches (8-10 hours with a portable sprinkler) the day installed or until "squishy." Then 1/2 inch (about 2 hours) every day for 2 weeks. This depends on daytime temperature — if the grass is wilting and stressed then short 30 minute waterings on a daily basis may be necessary in the evenings. When you can no longer pickup corners after a week and a half or two weeks, reduce to 1 inch per week. You would do this in two to three 1/2 inch waterings through the week. Don't make the grass go six days without water. If you come home at the end of the day and you see the grass kind of gray and wilted, then give that grass a good drink. That might be another hour or so with a hose or a sprinkler. If you have an irrigation system, it might be only 15 or 20 minutes.
<b>October</b>	1.5-2.0 inches (8-10 hours with a portable sprinkler) the day installed or until "squishy." Once daytime temperature consistently stays below 80 degrees, then watering requirements must be reduced, so as to not promote brown patch, to 1 inch every 7-10 days, then every 2-3 days for 1 hour. When you can no longer pick up corners reduce to 1 inch every 2-3 weeks.
<b>November-December</b>	1 inch (5 hours with a portable sprinkler) the day installed or until "squishy." Then 1 inch every 10-14 days. When you can no longer pick up corners reduce watering to 1 inch every 2-3 weeks.
	Mowing - The month refers to the month the grass is installed
<b>Note</b>	Note that if you are following the suggested watering requirements, you will probably not be able to mow without leaving ruts for at least 2 to 3 weeks no matter what time of year you plant. The first time you do mow, you should have your mower set high enough so that you're just cutting the tips off the grass blades.
<b>January-February</b>	If you plant in January or February, the grass will be dormant and will not be growing. Keep the mower off of it until it begins to green up in the spring.
<b>March</b>	If you plant in March, the grass could possibly be greening up and coming out of dormancy. Keep the mower off for 2 - 3 weeks, then as the grass begins to attach itself to the ground (you can no longer pick up corners), you may mow with your mower cutting height raised to at least 3.5 inches barely clip the top of the grass blades.

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<b>April</b>	If you plant in April, the grass will certainly be greening up and coming out of dormancy. Keep the mower off of it for 2 - 3 weeks, and then as the grass begins to attach itself to the ground, you may mow with your mower blades raised to at least 3.5 inches.
<b>May-December</b>	Keep the mower off of it for 2 - 3 weeks, and then as the grass begins to attach itself to the ground, you may mow with your mower blades raised to at least 3.5 inches.
Fertilizing - The month refers to the month the grass is installed	
<b>January-February</b>	None
<b>March-April</b>	Wait 4-6 weeks after the grass was planted then apply Nitro-Phos Imperial Fertilizer at a rate of half of what is recommended on the back of the bag. Do not use a weed and feed fertilizer.
<b>May-September</b>	Wait 4-6 weeks after the grass was planted then apply Nitro-Phos Superturf Fertilizer at a rate of half of what is recommended on the back of the bag. Do not use a weed and feed fertilizer.
<b>October-December</b>	Wait 4-6 weeks after the grass was planted then apply Nitro-Phos Fall Special Fertilizer at a rate of half of what is recommended on the back of the bag. Do not use a weed and feed fertilizer.
Pesticides	
<b>Notes</b>	Check the label of the pesticide you're using.
<b>January-May</b>	None
<b>June-September</b>	Chinch Bug & Sod Webworm Season - You should be looking for signs of the chinch bugs if you see the the what look like hot spots in your yard, especially close to the concrete. Get down on hands and knees and look for chinch bugs. The same goes for sod web worm damage. You come out in the morning and see softball to soccer ball sized circles eaten in the yard. It looks 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 eating around their nest and then they go back into the ground as the sun comes up. Both of those pests are fairly easy to kill with the liquid pesticide, Cyonara is the one that we carry. They're both going to require multiple applications of that liquid pesticide but they're easy to kill once you identify them. The problem normally is people don't identify them quickly enough and that that can get you in trouble.
<b>October-December</b>	None
Herbicides	
<b>Note</b>	Never apply herbicides on grass less than one year old
Fungicides	
<b>Notes</b>	If you're planting Palmetto St. Augustine in shadier areas from March through September, you need to be mindful of brown patch and gray leaf spot. <b>We recommend that you apply Heritage G as a preventative fungicide in the first few days after installation. If you're installing Raleigh St. Augustine in sunnier areas, we still recommend applying Heritage G in the first week after installation.</b> You should reapply Heritage G 21 days after the first application. We carry Heritage G at our office in Arcola. The fungicides are not activated until you water them in.
<b>January-February</b>	None
<b>March-April</b>	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.
<b>May-August</b>	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.
<b>September</b>	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.
<b>October</b>	Tis the season for brown patch again! Heritage G should be applied when you see the first signs and then again 21 days later.
<b>November-December</b>	None