

# TURF TIPS

The Turf Care Newsletter of Prestige Shrub and Tree, Ltd.®  
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## This Issue:

- Fescue maintenance
- Fescue Disease
- Fescue weed controls
- Warm season turf maintenance
- 2026 Price increase

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This is your last lawn application for 2025. In this application, we will be applying your fall pre and post emergent weed controls on WARM season turf. Those with fescue lawns will receive fast acting lime to help manage your soil's pH.

**Remember,  
we will automatically  
continue your service  
next season unless you  
call to discontinue.**

## How should I be maintaining my newly seeded FESCUE lawn?

Now that your fescue has been aerated and seeded, how should the turf be maintained? Clients are sometimes confused over how to treat their lawns now that they have tender seedlings to care for. If Prestige did your aeration and seeding, refer to the instruction sheet we sent with your invoice. If you had someone else perform this task, have no fear as our instructions still apply to you and you can find these instructions on our website at Prestigestt.com!

When dealing with new seedlings, it is always better to take the less is more approach. Leaving your lawn alone will

help insure the seedlings grow strong and though allowing the turf to grow long can make the turf look unkempt, it is better than continually mowing it short. Remember, **FESCUE IS NOT WARM SEASON TURF** and cannot tolerate being frequently mowed below 3". Fescue turf should be kept at 3" - 3½", and **cut only when needed. Your fescue probably won't need weekly mowing in the fall.**

Once the leaves start to fall, it is better to blow the fall leaves on your fescue. We still see maintenance companies continue to mow fescue week after week right through the fall. They do this, not necessarily because the fescue needs to be mowed, but rather to control leaf fall or simply out of habit. This continued mowing and heavy traffic over new seedlings and soft, wet soil causes failure of the new seedling stands.

As the fall progresses, even fescue turf will slow its growth rate thus **reducing the need for weekly mowing.** The frosts this time of year will also help reduce the volume of weeds that have grown in the turf. However, you do want to manage your accumulating

leaves to avoid allowing leaf layers to accumulate to the point of matting on top of your turf.

**Please do not rake the leaves.** This tears the young seedlings out of the ground. Please do not mow unless the turf needs to be mowed. All this activity defeats the purpose of fall overseeding.

The most practical method for leaf removal is to **use a blower.** When blowing off the lawn, sweep the air stream just across the top of the turf so as to just blow the leaves and not so hard as to blow down to bare dirt.

## Late Season Disease in Fescue Turf

Most of our clients who have fescue turf have aerated and seeded by this point of the year and the seedlings, with proper watering, should be germinating and growing well. After receiving regular rainfall this summer, the fall so far has been trending drier and the rainfall has been spotty at best. September was below average and October is starting off the same. We can only hope we finish the year with more consistent rainfall.

One disease that fescue owners should be on the look out for is Pythium disease.

Pythium disease or “melting out” looks as though the turf is melting with gray or off white fungal mycelium forming in the turf along with an orange band around the affected area.

Pythium tends to like warm weather with high humidity or frequent rainfalls. Pythium can grow in any hot and humid/wet conditions, but we often see it form in the fall in the newly germinated seedlings. The new seedlings can be especially vulnerable to Pythium infection and can be killed off in large areas if left untreated or unnoticed.

These areas often look like they are “melting down”. Upon closer inspection, you may see the base or crown of the plant blackened or appearing water logged. Pythium Blight needs to be treated and the area reseeded.

In order to help reduce the chance of Pythium disease, we use the recommended seeding rate while overseeding and no more. Excessive seed on the ground will only rot encouraging disease. Please keep in mind turf should not be mowed while it is wet as this tears the turf opening it up for infection.

Keep your lawn mower blade sharp. A sharp mower blade reduces tearing of the leaf blade. Mowing with a dull blade will produce a ragged appearance of the turf after mowing and greatly increases the chance of disease activity. Lastly, if an area of disease is seen, **DO NOT MOW** the area until it has been

treated. Mowing a diseased area in the turf can rapidly spread it over the yard. If you are unsure, send us or UGA extension service a picture for ID and if needed, we can respond and treat the affected area.

### **What Should I Be Doing For My Warm Season Turf?**

Have no fear for I have not forgotten about my warm season turf clients! With all the excitement about the fescue and how to manage the crucial overseeding fall process, warm season turf takes a bit of a back seat. Other than keeping the falling leaves clear? **NOTHING!** By this time of year, the bermuda and zoysia turfs should be slowing down their top growth and focusing on rebuilding its root systems for spring green up so your maintenance of the turf should be slowing down as well as we move towards dormancy. If you have not, raise your mowing height to encourage root system growth and reduce the brown streaks (firing) left by mowing. I go from mowing my bermuda every 3-4 days at 2-2.5” to mowing on demand at 3”.

This last application along with upcoming frosts will help clean up any weed issues in the turf and put down a chemical protective barrier to prevent winter weeds in your turf.

Once your turf goes dormant, your off until your turf greens up in spring of next year!! So sit back and enjoy the time off.

### **Price increases for next year**

As we are all painfully aware, our economic realities have provided us with surging prices for just about everything. We at Prestige try our best to absorb some of the rising costs associated with doing business whether it be from the increased costs of our chemicals and fertilizers, or the cost of putting gas in our trucks. Unfortunately, we must eventually charge more for our services to keep our business operational. As we have done in the past, we will hold off on raising prices until the end of the year so our customers can reliably budget for our services in their household expenditures.

**If you would like to prepay for your services, please contact Karli in the office so she can send you a prepayment letter when 2026 prices are set.**

We will be raising the cost of our current programs to match the increasing costs of the products we build our programs on. We will also need to bring older accounts up to current minimum pricing. While no one likes increasing prices, we thank you for your understanding and appreciate your continued business into the next year.