

The Natural Lawn Care Calendar

Excerpt from *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, by Paul Tukey reprinted by permission from *Plant Natural* by Eric Vinje, at website <http://www.planetnatural.com>

Use the following chart as a seasonal guide to the natural lawn care system, but understand that the timing may vary greatly in your area, as much as a month in some cases. The activities below are designed for an intensive, highly maintained natural lawn in its initial years. Actual activities may vary depending on the individual requirements of a lawn and the desire, time, and budget of the homeowner.

Cool Regions (Cold, Snowy Winters)	
December to February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't park or walk excessively on the lawn.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake up leaves and debris. • Begin regular mowing with blade low.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply corn gluten when forsythias bloom. • Pull weeds by hand or spot-spray as needed. • Apply compost tea.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply calcium-rich fertilizer and other amendments per soil test results. • Dethatch and aerate as needed. • Consider top-dressing with compost. • Consider first overseeding or wait until late August. • Apply beneficial nematodes for grub control.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay vigilant with weeds. • Begin irrigation as needed. • Monitor billbug, chinch bug, sod webworm, and other insect pests. • Raise mower blade. • Apply compost tea.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor irrigation. • Monitor insects.
Late August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and pull or dig summer weeds. • Monitor irrigation. • Apply compost tea. • Dethatch and aerate as needed. • Overseed with appropriate grass seed. • Top-dress with compost. • Apply calcium rich fertilizer.

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit watering.• Lower mower blade.• Apply beneficial nematodes as needed.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin fall cleanup.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mow low without scalping lawn.• Remove all leaves and debris, and add to compost, or mulch leaves into lawn if not abundant.• Apply compost tea.