

**Table 1: Fertilizer application schedule for established Colorado lawns.**

Turfgrass Species	Mid-March to April <sup>1</sup>	May to mid-June	July to early August	Mid-August to mid-September	Early October to early November <sup>2</sup>
(nitrogen application rates are in pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn area)					
High Maintenance Bluegrass/Ryegrass	1/2-1	1	not required	1	1-(2)
Low-Maintenance Bluegrass	1/2	1/2-1	not required	1	(1)
Turf-Type					
Tall Fescue	1/2	1/2-1	not required	1	(1)
Fine Fescue	1/2	1/2-1	not required	1/2-1	not required
Buffalograss/Blue Grama/Bermudagrass	Apply no N	1/2-1	1/2-1	Apply no N	Apply no N

<sup>1</sup> The March-April nitrogen application may not be needed if you fertilized late (September to November) the previous year. If spring green-up and growth is satisfactory, delay fertilizing until May or June.

<sup>2</sup> When grass is still green.

- ▶ Optional N applications shown in (). Use extra nitrogen applications where a higher quality turf is desired or on heavily used turf.
- ▶ Make the final fall nitrogen application (October-November) while the grass is still green and at least two to three weeks before the ground begins to freeze in your area.
- ▶ On very sandy soils, do not fertilize turf after late September. Nitrogen can leach into groundwater during the winter months. Use slow-release nitrogen fertilizers (sulfur-coated urea, IBDU and natural organic-based fertilizers) on sandy soils throughout the year to reduce the potential for leaching losses.
- ▶ Nitrogen application can often be reduced by 1/4 to 1/3 when grass clippings are returned to the lawn during mowing. Nitrogen and other nutrients contained in the clippings are recycled into the lawn as they decompose. **Grass clippings do not contribute to thatch accumulation in lawns.**