



We Beautify the World

COOL SEASON GRASS to Bermuda Transition

While transition is driven by soil and air temperature, here are the monthly goals and guidelines for a successful transition.

MARCH

Note that while Bermuda is not actively growing it is already starting to green-up this month.



APRIL

The goal for April is to have the Ryegrass gone by the end of the month. Reduce water as needed to stress the Ryegrass. It is OK to cut the water for a short term but don't leave it off so long that the Bermuda

roots dry out. Mow lower each week to stress the Ryegrass and bring more light to the Bermuda. Mow at 2.0" the first week of April, 1.5" the second week, 1.0" the third week, .75" or less the fourth week. If any Ryegrass is still alive at the end of the month, power-rake it out as Bermuda active growth weather (seven consecutive nights above sixty degrees) will arrive in May.

Shade Note: Bermuda will not grow in shaded areas so options for those areas must be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

MAY

Nighttime temperatures will be in the sixties and seventies and daytime temperatures can be as high as 98 to 108 degrees, so Bermuda starts growing this month. Set irrigation controllers for a Bermuda watering schedule of no more than three times per week and run times long enough to get water 6" to 8" deep for established Bermuda roots. If there is any remaining ryegrass, alive or dead, continue to rake/power rake it out. May is also the month to seed or sod areas of weak Bermuda. Fertilize the Bermuda early in the month to encourage new growth.



JUNE

The end of the first week of June is the absolute deadline to have the Bermuda growing without any competition from the Ryegrass. Bermuda needs a minimum of a full 100 days of healthy growth with good nutrition and adequate water to be able to store the carbohydrates that it will need for a vigorous return to growth when Bermuda weather arrives again next spring. If the Bermuda is back to full health by the end of June, that 100th day will arrive on October 8th. After October 8th it will be time to scalp the Bermuda for Ryegrass season again. Any delay achieving perfect Bermuda by June 30th will cause the Bermuda to be weaker the following season. June is the time to dethatch your Bermuda if there is more than one half inch of thatch restricting air and water to the roots. June is also the month to aerate the turf and follow aeration with applications of Sulfur & Gypsum. Spread another application of fertilizer at the beginning of the month and the Bermuda should be nearly perfect by the end of the month. Continue to fertilize lightly every 30 days through July & August.

