

# W. P. LAW INCORPORATED TALL FESCUE

## FERTILIZER & WEED PREVENTION PROGRAM

### Tall Fescue Traits

**Fertility:** MEDIUM

**Drought Tolerance:** LOW

**Shade Tolerance:** GOOD

**Disease Problems:** PATCH DISEASES

**Insect Problems:** LOW

**Recovery Rate:** POOR

**Density:** LOW

**Texture:** FINE TO COARSE  
(depending on cultivar)

**Wear Tolerance:** POOR

### Tall Fescue Grass

Fescue is **cool season grass** that is limited primarily to the **upstate** of South Carolina. Fescue stays green **year round** and is established through seeding or sodding. Seeding should be performed in early fall to give it enough time to mature before hot weather in the summertime. Since there are several species of fescue, texture can vary from fine to coarse.

Fescue should be established at the **onset of cool weather** in order to give it enough time to mature prior to hot weather. **Preventative fungicide treatments should be made during summer months to alleviate disease pressure that occurs during this stressful period.**

High nitrogen fertilizer applications should be avoided during these times as well, as they can weaken the plant. By increasing potassium levels prior to heat stress, fescue has a greater chance of survival. Potassium helps with disease resistance and water uptake within the plant.

### Our Story

Since 1970, **W. P. Law, Inc.** has been the trusted source for irrigation components throughout South Carolina. We are proud to announce the newest line of products to **help keep your property looking its best.** Our **contractor grade** fertilizers and weed prevention products will ensure you get the professional results you desire.

The horticulture staff at W. P. Law, Inc. has assembled an **easy-to-follow schedule** with application rates to take the guess work out of proper fertilization and weed control.

Allow us to use our numerous years of experience to assist you in **saving time** while producing a **healthier landscape.**

In addition to fertilizers, **W.P. Law Inc.** offers a broad range of control products to keep landscapes looking their best. Our **insect control program** works great on fire ants and other lawn damaging insects. This newer generation broad-spectrum insecticide gives up to three months control and works on insects such as fire ants, spittlebugs, armyworms, cutworms, fleas, ticks, mole crickets, sand gnats, millipedes, and centipedes. Two applications per year will give season long control on most unwanted insects. Consult the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Insect Management Guide for additional information on insects that cause damage to turf. A copy of the guide is available for download at [www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass](http://www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass)

**W.P. Law Inc.** also offers a complete line of **granular fungicides** to protect your turf against diseases that can cause severe injury. There are a variety of diseases that can cause injury to Tall Fescue grass. In recent years, large patch (**brown patch**) has become the number one disease on warm-season turf. On the back is a fungicide program to help prevent large patch infestation. For additional information on other diseases that affect Tall Fescue grass, **visit [www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass](http://www.wplawinc.com/turfgrass) to download a copy of the W.P. Law Inc. Turfgrass Disease Management Guide**



## Soils

A practical understanding of your soil is essential in managing your lawn. Soil pH is perhaps the most crucial element. Most turf grasses perform best when the soil pH falls between 6.3 and 7.0. If your soil pH does not fall within this range, essential nutrients will not be available to the grass. We recommend that a soil test be performed annually to check the pH values as well as other nutrient levels within the soil profile. To obtain assistance with soil testing, contact your local Clemson University Extension office. **Verdelawn** is used to adjust soil pH. When applied at a rate of 12 pounds per 1,000 sq. ft., Verdelawn will raise the pH as much as one point in as little as **4-6 weeks**.



## Watering

The watering requirement for your Tall Fescue lawn will **vary greatly** due to constantly changing weather conditions. During the growing season, it may need anywhere from **0-1.5" of water per week**. The professionals at W. P. Law, Inc. suggest using an **irrigation controller** with a weather station or soil moisture sensors to compensate for these changing conditions.

Studies have shown these types of controllers can save **20-50% on your water bill** over traditional time based controllers. Existing controllers can also be fitted with this water saving technology. In addition to saving water and money, there is no need for continual adjustment. The result is a **better looking lawn with less effort**. Because these "**smart controllers**" only apply water when needed, they will usually pay for themselves in water savings within the first year.

## Mowing

One of the principle keys to maintaining a healthy fescue lawn is proper mowing. Due to the high humidity and temperatures in the transition zone, it is mandatory that a Fescue lawn be mowed **no closer than 3 1/2 inches during the summer months**. If you desire the lawn may be mowed as close as 2 inches during the fall and winter.

A good rule of thumb is to **NEVER remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade during mowing**

## Pre-Emergent Herbicides

Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent annual weeds from germinating in your lawn by forming a **protective chemical barrier** on the soil surface. There are both cool season and warm season annual weeds that germinate at various times throughout the year. By applying a pre-emergent herbicide, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

**NEVER apply these products on a lawn that is not well established!**

## Aeration

Aeration has two purposes. The first is to simply **loosen the soil**. The second is to **prune the roots**. Core aeration is the recommended method and should be performed every 2 years on a typical home lawn during the growing season. If your lawn receives heavy foot traffic, it is advisable to aerate every year. Aeration should be performed during the **growing season** of the turf.

**Need a reminder of when to apply? visit  
[www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-programs](http://www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-programs)  
and sign up to receive e-mail notifications and important information**



## Management

The most important part of managing a Fescue lawn is providing fertilizer and preventing disease, insects and weeds. The program listed will provide all the essential elements that your lawn requires in a season to grow healthy.

### Common Management Mistakes:

Mowing height too low

Reseeding Timing

Nitrogen Applications during the Summer

Improper watering practices

### Brown Patch on Cool Season Turf

**Symptoms:** Brown patch typically causes rings or patches of blighted grass that can measure anywhere from 5 inches up to 10 feet. In addition to causing leaf spots, the disease also presents a thin brown border around the patches that can often be seen during the morning hours. This “smoke ring” effect is an easy way to identify the disease. On wide bladed grass varieties, look for leaf lesions that have tan centers with dark brown to black margins. After leaves die in the blighted areas, new leaves can emerge from the surviving crown tissue of the grass.

**Conditions favoring the disease:** Brown patch occurs when daytime temperatures over 85°F and night time temperatures are over 68°F. This disease is more active in summer months on fescue and can be brought about by conditions of high humidity and leaf wetness of more than 10 hours for several consecutive days.

### Tips to Avoid Brown Patch

- Use low to moderate amounts of nitrogen with moderate amounts of phosphorus and moderate to high amounts of potash
- Avoid nitrogen applications when disease is active
- Increase **height of cut** and increase **air circulation** if possible
- Minimize the amount of **shade** the grass receives
- Irrigate turf in the **early** part of the day
- **Improve drainage.**
- **Reduce thatch**
- Apply **lime** if soil pH is less than 6.5





# TALL FESCUE FERTILIZER AND WEED PREVENTION PROGRAM

**January:** Soil test and Verdelawn (if necessary)

Soil testing available through W. P. Law, Inc.

A soil test can determine the current fertility and health of your soil. By measuring both the pH level and pinpointing nutrient deficiencies, a soil test can provide the information to maintain the most optimal fertility each year.

**February-March:** 19-0-6 Barricade 0.38%  
(3# per 1000 sq. ft.)

Provides nitrogen and pre-emergent for green-up and extended weed control

**April-May:** 19-0-6 Barricade 0.38% or 19-0-6 Confront3 + Dimension 0.145%  
(3# per 1000 sq. ft. or 4# per 1000 sq. ft.)

19-0-6 Barricade provides extended preventative weed control or use 19-0-6 Confront3 + Dimension to control existing broadleaf weeds with the addition of Dimension for extended preventative control.

**June:** 6-1-11 with 7% Iron  
(5# per 1000 sq. ft.)

Prevents stress and adds iron for good color

**September:** 18-24-12 Starter Fertilizer with 25% MESA  
(4# per 1000 sq. ft.)

Starter fertilizer to promote root growth and seed germination during reseeding

**November:** 25-0-10 Fertilizer with 50% MESA  
(4# per 1000 sq. ft.)

Provides slow-release nitrogen to maintain steady growth

**December:** 25-0-10 Fertilizer with 50% MESA  
(4# per 1000 sq. ft.)

**Sign up for our email reminder program to never miss a fertilizer application!**  
[www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program](http://www.wplawinc.com/grass-fertilizer-program)

## INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

**April: Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide**

Broad spectrum insect control that lasts up to 3 months. Works great on fire ants.  
(2.3#-4.6# per 1000 sq. ft.)

**July: Bifenthrin Granular Insecticide**

## LARGE PATCH FUNGICIDE PROGRAM

**June: Pillar G Fungicide**

Broad-spectrum fungicide with two active ingredients  
(3# per 1000 sq. ft.)

**July: Pillar G Fungicide**

## DISCLAIMER:

This fertilizer and weed prevention program is an informal reference for herbicides and fertilizers available for turfgrass management.

It is not meant to supplement any product labels. Herbicide and fertilizer **labels should always be consulted** before being applied.

Labels are subject to change without notice. Due to differences in grass varieties, environmental conditions, temperature, stress, moisture conditions, plant health, and other factors, herbicide and fertilizer applications may cause undesirable injury to grasses.

**W.P. Law Inc. does not guarantee or warranty the use of products listed in this program. Please remember that the label is the law.**

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Pumping & Piping Systems