



## Density Buffalo Maintenance Recommendations

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### Density Buffalo Quick Tips:

- ◆ Density Buffalo can be installed year-round, even during dormancy.
- ◆ Do not plant Buffalo in the shade, as it requires 8+ hours of direct sunlight.
- ◆ Density Buffalo is harder to handle during installation. Use both hands while installing to minimize waste.
- ◆ Buffalo is recommended as a minimal maintenance grass species that is often planted on roadsides, industrial parks, ranches, and other non-irrigated landscape sites.
- ◆ Keep the soil underneath your new Buffalo saturated 6 inches deep until the roots establish into the soil.

### Mow As Needed

- Mow often enough to maintain a height of 1 to 4 inches without scalping the grass.
- Always observe the 1/3 rule, never removing more than one-third of the leaf tissue in a single mowing.
- Buffalo grass requires minimal mowing and will be more weed resistant if kept taller because longer leaves will shade the soil & prevent seed germination.

### Fertilizing & Pre-Emergent Weed Control

- Avoid feast-or-famine. An overabundance of nitrogen can encourage lawn problems, such as Brown Patch fungal disease & grub worms.

- Buffalo needs 2-3 total pounds of nitrogen per thousand sq ft in split applications, per year.
- A weed-free yard is best achieved by maintaining a healthy, dense lawn through good cultural practices & healthy soil.
- Pre-emergent herbicides are essential to reducing weeds in Buffalograss.
- Use post-emergent herbicides only as needed.

MONTH	FERTILIZER & SOIL BUILDING	PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDE
FEB-MARCH	Apply a general <b>15-5-10 fertilizer</b> to encourage spring green-up.	Apply <b>pre-emergent</b> when <u>soil temperatures</u> reach 55°F for 2-3 consecutive days.
LATE MARCH-EARLY APRIL	Apply <b>slow-release 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer</b> with 3% iron & 10% sulphur. Recommended fertilizer ratios: <b>19-5-10; 19-4-10; 15-5-10.</b>	NONE
MAY-EARLY JUNE	NONE	Apply 2nd application of a <b>pre-emergent</b> herbicide.
LATE JUNE-EARLY JULY	Apply <b>slow-release 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer</b> with 3% iron & 10% sulphur. Recommended fertilizer ratios: <b>19-5-10; 19-4-10; 15-5-10.</b>	NONE
JULY-SEPT	Apply <b>MicroLife Brown Patch</b> to condition the soil & help prevent fungal diseases.	NONE
OCT-NOV	Apply a <b>high phosphorus winterizing fertilizer</b> for southern grasses to help with winter hardiness. Recommended ratios are 10-5-14; 8-12-16; 18-6-12.	Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent spring weeds.
LATE OCT-EARLY NOV	<b>Pre-emergent Herbicide</b>	Apply pre-emergent when <u>soil temps</u> drop below 70°F.
DEC-JAN	Apply a <b>bio-stimulant with micro-nutrients</b> to increase microbial activity & encourage healthy soil building.	NONE

## Post-Emergent Herbicides

Be sure to positively identify the target weed before choosing a post-emergent herbicide. This will ensure proper herbicide selection & successful control. [This picture guide](#) by Bayer should help identify any common weeds in Central Texas & more.

The products to use depend on the target weeds, level of infestation, and ambient temperatures. Be careful, and always read the label. Most herbicides are temperature sensitive. Contact a lawn care professional or your local ag extension for assistance if you are unsure about the type of weed or product to use. To [prevent herbicide resistance](#), you should rotate MOAs (modes of action).

## Fungal Disease & Pest Control

Many common lawn problems present the same way, and the underlying issue is often misdiagnosed. [This flowchart](#) will help you troubleshoot & determine the cause for a decline in your lawn so that you can take the correct action quickly before the problem grows out of control. Further, lawn problems usually point to an underlying issue, such as over or under fertilizing, mowing, watering, etc. Aim to prevent these issues through well-timed, proper cultural practices. Use soil building bio-stimulants to improve soil health, increase beneficial microbes & fungi, and help prevent lawn problems.

Chemical treatments can be damaging to the environment & the health of your soil. They should be used sparingly & responsibly. However, these chemicals are typically needed if the lawn becomes infected or invaded by fungal disease or deleterious pests. For fungal diseases, use systemic, broad-spectrum fungicides, such as azoxystrobin or propiconazole. For lawn pests, such as fire ants, cutworms, fall armyworms, grub worms, and chinch bugs, use insecticides like cypermethrin, permethrin, and zeta-cypermethrin. [Rotate fungicides & insecticides from different IRAC/FRAC Groups](#) to avoid resistance in the future.