



Palmetto St. Augustine Maintenance Recommendations

Palmetto St. Augustine Quick Tips:

- ▶ Palmetto can be installed year-round, even during dormancy.
- ▶ Palmetto is the most shade-tolerant St. Augustine cultivar we carry; however, **all warm-season grasses require sunlight** to remain dense & healthy.
- ▶ Palmetto will **yellow some post-harvest**, especially in temps 85°F & hotter. It will green back up with prompt installation & water.
- ▶ Palmetto develops a deeper root system than Raleigh & Texas Native, making it a slightly more drought-tolerant St. Augustine variety.
- ▶ Keep the soil underneath your new Palmetto saturated 6 inches deep until the roots establish into the soil.

Mow Frequently

- You can mow your new grass on the highest setting once the roots are established, you have a little over 3 inches of vertical growth, and the seams are filling in.
- Mow as often as every 2-3 days to maintain a height of 2 to 3 inches to promote density through increased lateral growth.
- Always **observe the 1/3 rule**, never removing more than one-third of the leaf tissue in a single mowing.
- Palmetto will be most shade-tolerant when kept taller, especially in the shadiest areas.

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](#).
- Palmetto needs 4-5 total pounds of nitrogen per thousand sq ft, per year.
- A weed-free yard is best achieved by maintaining a healthy, dense lawn through good cultural practices & healthy soil.
- [Pre-emergent herbicides](#) should be included in every lawn care schedule.
- Use post-emergent herbicides only as needed.

MONTH	FERTILIZER & SOIL BUILDING	PRE-EMERGENT HERBICIDE
FEB-MARCH	In the absence of soil test recommendations, apply all-purpose fertilizer, such as Lesco 15-5-10	Apply pre-emergent when soil temperatures reach 55°F for 2-3 consecutive days.
LATE MARCH-EARLY APRIL	Apply slow-release 3-1-2 ratio fertilizer with iron & sulfur. Recommended fertilizer ratios: 19-5-10 ; 19-4-10 ; 15-5-10 .	NONE
MAY-EARLY JUNE	NONE	Apply 2nd application of a pre-emergent herbicide.
LATE JUNE-EARLY JULY	Apply organic slow-release fertilizer with iron & sulfur. Do not apply synthetic, fast-release nitrogen during high temperatures.	NONE
JULY-SEPT	Apply MicroLife Brown Patch to condition the soil & help prevent fungal diseases.	NONE
OCT-EARLY NOV	In the absence of soil test recommendations, apply all-purpose fertilizer, such as Lesco 15-5-10	Apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent spring weeds.
NOV	Apply a phosphorus winterizing fertilizer for southern grasses to help with winter hardiness.	Apply pre-emergent when soil temps drop below 70°F.
DEC-JAN	Apply a bio-stimulant with micro-nutrients 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 Turfgrass Weeds photo guide](#) by AggieTurf should help identify common weeds in your lawn. However, a broad-spectrum post-emergent herbicide, such as [Bayer's Celsius WG](#), is safe for St. Augustine varieties and will target the most common grassy & broadleaf weeds. For nutsedge, [Sedgehammer+](#) works best.

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, they are sometimes necessary if the lawn becomes infected or invaded by fungal diseases 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.