



Long Island Fertilizer Schedule

5 rounds, 2.75 lbs N/year, calibrated for Zone 7B sandy soil

USDA ZONE 7B

Moderate KBG Schedule

The Complete 5-Round Schedule (Moderate Kentucky Bluegrass)

ROUND	WINDOW	RATE	RUNNING	PRODUCT TYPE	KEY NOTES
R1 Spring Wake-Up	Apr 15-25	0.50 lbs N	0.50	Slow-release	Suffolk blackout ends Apr 1. Wait 2 weeks after pre-emergent. Light feeding only.
R2 Spring Bridge <i>(optional)</i>	May 20-30	0.25 lbs N	0.75	Quick or slow	Skip if lawn looks good. Maintains color before summer stress. Don't exceed 0.25.
R3 Fall Kickoff	Aug 25-Sep 5	0.75 lbs N	1.50	Slow-release	Most important round. Pair with aeration. Roots are in maximum uptake mode.
R4 Peak Fall	Sep 25-Oct 5	0.75 lbs N	2.25	Slow-release	Root density and carbohydrate storage. Cool-season grass power period.
R5 Winterizer	Oct 15-25	0.50 lbs N	2.75	Slow-release req.	Must complete before Nov 1 (Suffolk) / Nov 15 (Nassau). Final energy bank for winter.

73% of nitrogen goes down in fall (R3-R5). This is intentional. Cool-season grass builds root mass and stores carbohydrates in autumn, not spring. Spring feeding is a maintenance dose, not a growth driver.

Suffolk County Law (Local Law No. 41-2007): Zero fertilizer November 1 through April 1. \$1,000 fine per violation. Nassau County: November 15 through April 1. These are legal blackouts, not guidelines.

$$\text{Product (lbs)} = (\text{Sq Ft} \times \text{Rate}) / (\text{N\%} \times 10)$$

Example: 5,000 sq ft zone at 0.75 lbs N using a 24-0-4 product = $(5,000 \times 0.75) / (24 \times 10) = 15.6$ lbs of product

The 2/3 + 1/3 Split: On sandy soil, any application at 1.0+ lbs N should be split. Apply 2/3 of the product, wait 4-6 weeks, apply the remaining 1/3. Prevents leaching through LI's low-CEC sand.

Why slow-release? Sandy soil has low nutrient-holding capacity. Quick-release N on sand leaches past the root zone before grass can absorb it. At 0.50+ lbs N, require 60% or more slow-release (sulfur-coated urea, polymer-coated, methylene urea).

Common Product N-P-K Analysis

PRODUCT	N-P-K	N%	TYPE	BEST FOR
Scotts Turf Builder	32-0-4	32%	Slow-release	R1, R3, R4
Milorganite	6-4-0	6%	Organic slow	R1, R2 (safe on sand)
Lesco 24-0-11	24-0-11	24%	50% slow	R3, R4, R5 (has K)
Jonathan Green Winter Survival	10-0-20	10%	Slow-release	R5 Winterizer (high K)
Carbon-X	7-0-0	7%	85% slow	Any round (premium)
Urea (46-0-0)	46-0-0	46%	Quick-release	Split only. Max 0.50 lbs N on sand.

2.75 lbs N
ANNUAL TOTAL

73% in Fall
R3 + R4 + R5

0.50 max
QUICK-RELEASE/APP

60%+ SRN
SLOW-RELEASE MIN

Nov 1
SUFFOLK BLACKOUT

Not everyone runs KBG. Here's how to adapt the schedule.

TTTF (Turf-Type Tall Fescue) Schedule: 4 Rounds, 2.50 lbs N/year

ROUND	WINDOW	RATE	TOTAL	NOTES
R1 Spring	Apr 15-25	0.50 lbs N	0.50	Same as KBG. Light spring dose.
R2 Fall Kickoff	Sep 1-5	0.75 lbs N	1.25	Skip the May bridge. TTTF doesn't need it.
R3 Peak Fall	Sep 25-Oct 5	0.75 lbs N	2.00	Root building period. TTTF's deep roots benefit most here.
R4 Winterizer	Oct 15-25	0.50 lbs N	2.50	Slow-release. Before Suffolk blackout Nov 1.

TTTF annual range: 2.0 (low) / 2.5 (moderate) / 3.0-3.5 (high). This schedule targets the moderate track. On LI sandy soil, TTTF's deeper root system (8-12 inches vs KBG's 4-6) provides better drought tolerance and nutrient access.

Fine Fescue Schedule: 3 Rounds, 1.50 lbs N/year

ROUND	WINDOW	RATE	TOTAL	NOTES
R1 Spring	Apr 20-30	0.25 lbs N	0.25	Very light. Fine fescue is easily burned by excess N.
R2 Fall	Sep 1-10	0.75 lbs N	1.00	Primary feeding. Slow-release required.
R3 Winterizer	Oct 15-25	0.50 lbs N	1.50	Final app. Before blackout.

Fine Fescue annual range: 1.0 (low) / 1.5 (moderate) / 2.0 (high). Shade-adapted species that thrives on neglect. Overfertilizing causes thatch buildup and disease susceptibility. Less is more.

Annual N Rates Quick Reference

Kentucky Bluegrass	2.0 / 3.0 / 4.0
Turf-Type Tall Fescue	2.0 / 2.5 / 3.0-3.5
Perennial Ryegrass	2.0 / 3.0 / 4.0
Fine Fescue	1.0 / 1.5 / 2.0
KBG/PRG/FF Blend	2.0 / 3.0 / 3.5

Values: Low / Moderate / High maintenance (lbs N per 1,000 sq ft per year)

Sandy Soil Rules (Long Island)

Max quick-release N per app	0.50 lbs/1K
Slow-release minimum	60%+ at 0.50+ lbs
Split trigger threshold	1.0 lbs N/1K
Split spacing	4-6 weeks apart
Max K2O per application	0.50 lbs/1K
K correction multiplier	3-5x (CEC based)
Soil test frequency	Annually

Standard clay/loam rates don't apply on LI glacial outwash sand. CEC under 5 means nutrients leach fast. Every rate, every product, every schedule needs the sandy soil adjustment.

This is the manual version.

The Blade Boss Fertilizer Calculator gives you exact product amounts, spreader settings, and application timing customized to your lawn's zones, grass type, and soil test results.

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