



# 2026 Long Island Lawn Care Calendar

Month-by-month schedule built on 30-year NOAA climate data

USDA ZONE 7B

NOAA Islip (ISP) 1991-2020 Normals

## WINTER PLANNING

Dec, Jan, Feb

## SPRING ACTIVATION

Mar, Apr, May

## SUMMER SURVIVAL

Jun, Jul, Aug

## FALL POWER SEASON

Sep, Oct, Nov

### January 37°F

- Review last year's soil test results
- Order new soil test kit (every 1-2 years on sand)
- Sharpen mower blade
- Research seed varieties for fall overseeding
- Stay off frozen turf
- Plan your lawn map zones

### February 36°F

- Service mower (oil, filter, spark plug)
- Calibrate spreader with catch test
- Pull soil samples when ground thaws
- Spot-treat winter broadleaf weeds on mild days
- Inventory products: pre-emergent, fertilizer, seed
- Check fall pre-emergent barrier degradation

### March 43°F

- Spring cleanup (light rake, remove debris)
- Check irrigation system, schedule blowout test
- **Apply lime if pH below 6.0**
- **Monitor GDD50 for pre-emergent**
- Last hard freeze avg: March 30
- Soil temp climbing through 43°F

### April 53°F

- **Pre-emergent at GDD50 = 100 (~Apr 6)**
- **First fertilizer after Apr 1 (0.50 lbs N)**
- **First mow at 3 inches**
- Suffolk blackout ends April 1
- Last spring frost avg: April 10
- Begin weekly mowing when growth starts

### May 61°F

- **2nd pre-emergent (split app for sandy soil)**
- Optional bridge fertilizer (0.25 lbs N)
- **Apply grub preventive (chlorantraniliprole)**
- Post-emergent spot spray for broadleaf weeds
- Mow every 5-7 days at 3 inches
- Disease watch: leaf spot peaks in May

### June 70°F

- **Raise mowing height to 3.5-4 inches**
- No heavy nitrogen (summer stress onset)
- Water 1 inch per week including rainfall
- Monitor for dollar spot (low N) and brown patch
- Mow every 7-10 days
- Water early morning before 10 AM

### July 78°F

- **No fertilizer (survival mode)**
- Mow at 4 inches minimum
- 1-1.5 inches water per week if irrigating
- Let dormancy happen if no irrigation
- Sharpen blade mid-season
- Avoid herbicide apps in heat above 85°F

### August 76°F

- **Plan fall renovation strategy**
- Check for grubs (tug test by Aug 25)
- Order seed for fall overseeding
- Monitor Poa annua risk (soil nearing 70°F)
- Reserve aerator rental for September
- Scout thin areas to mark for overseeding

### September 68°F

- **Core aerate (Sep 1 to Oct 15)**
- **Overseed immediately after (Sep 1 to Oct 15)**
- **Fall fertilizer: 0.75 lbs N/1,000 sq ft**
- No pre-emergent in seeded areas
- Return to 3 inch mowing height
- Keep new seed moist: light water 2-3x/day

### October 57°F

- **Finish overseeding by Oct 15**
- **Winterizer: 0.50 lbs N (slow-release)**
- **Broadleaf herbicide: Oct 15 to Nov 15**
- Leaf management (mulch mow or remove)
- First frost (32°F) avg: Oct 31
- Peak fall feeding: 0.75 lbs N late Sep/early Oct

### November 50°F

- **Suffolk blackout: Nov 1 (no fertilizer)**
- **Nassau blackout: Nov 15 (no fertilizer)**
- Broadleaf herbicide deadline: Nov 15
- **Final mow ~Nov 20 (lower to 2.5 in)**
- Clean and winterize equipment
- Drain and blow out irrigation system

### December 42°F

- No fertilizer (blackout in effect)
- Keep debris, decorations off dormant turf
- Avoid walking on frozen or frost-covered grass
- Review the year, document what worked
- Order soil test kit for spring
- Plan next year's seed and product purchases

GDD50 = 100

PRE-EMERGENT TRIGGER

Sep 1-Oct 15

AERATION + OVERSEED

Nov 1

SUFFOLK BLACKOUT STARTS

2.75 lbs N

ANNUAL TARGET (MODERATE KBG)

4 inches

SUMMER MOWING HEIGHT

# Quick Reference Data Card

Long Island Zone 7B - Key rates, dates, and thresholds

PRINT + KEEP

## Fertilizer Schedule (Moderate KBG: 5 Rounds, 2.75 lbs N/year)

ROUND	WINDOW	RATE	TOTAL	NOTES
R1 Spring Wake-Up	Apr 15-25	0.50 lbs N	0.50	After Suffolk blackout ends Apr 1. Slow-release preferred.
R2 Bridge <i>(optional)</i>	May 20-30	0.25 lbs N	0.75	Skip if lawn looks good. Maintains color into summer.
R3 Fall Kickoff	Aug 25-Sep 5	0.75 lbs N	1.50	Most important feeding of the year. Pair with aeration.
R4 Peak Fall	Sep 25-Oct 5	0.75 lbs N	2.25	Root density + carb storage. Cool-season power period.
R5 Winterizer	Oct 15-25	0.50 lbs N	2.75	Slow-release required. Must complete before Nov 1 (Suffolk).

## Critical Dates

Last hard freeze (50%)	March 30
Last spring frost (50%)	April 9-10
Pre-emergent window opens	~April 6
Pre-emergent deadline	~April 21
Aeration + overseed window	Sep 1-Oct 15
First frost 32°F (50%)	October 31
First frost any (50%)	November 2-4
Suffolk blackout	Nov 1-Apr 1
Nassau blackout	Nov 15-Apr 1

## GDD<sub>50</sub> Milestones

Grass begins growing	10
Pre-emergent window opens	100
Crabgrass emergence / pre-em deadline	200
Peak spring growth	375
Summer stress onset	1,150
Grub preventive window	1,050-1,180
Overseed window opens	2,050
Fall fertilizer window	2,436-2,932
Winterizer window	3,050-3,097

## Annual N Rates by Grass Type (lbs N/1,000 sq ft)

Kentucky Bluegrass	2.0 / 3.0 / 4.0
Turf-Type Tall Fescue	2.0 / 2.5 / 3.0-3.5
Fine Fescue	1.0 / 1.5 / 2.0

Values shown as Low / Moderate / High maintenance tracks.  
On sandy soil: max 0.50 lbs quick-release N per app. 60%+ slow-release required at 0.50+ lbs N.

## Sandy Soil Adjustments (Long Island)

Max quick-release N per app	0.50 lbs/1K
Slow-release N requirement	60%+ at 0.50+ lbs
Split application trigger	1.0 lbs N/1K
Pre-emergent strategy	Split: 2 apps, 6-8 wks
Irrigation frequency	2-3x/wk, 0.35-0.50 in
Soil test frequency	Annually

## This is the universal Zone 7B schedule.

Your lawn has zones. Get the version calibrated to your specific property with real-time GDD tracking, soil correction algorithms, and custom fertilizer rates.

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