



**Fertility** – Empire requires very little Nitrogen to maintain a healthy, dense lawn

- **February** – Soil test, liming based on soil results. Empire prefers a pH between 6 and 6.5
- **Late March** – Apply a 100% slow-release Nitrogen with equal parts Potassium (i.e., 15-0-15). This will feed your lawn incrementally throughout the Spring months and re-establish root mass.
- **Late June** – Apply a 100% slow-release Nitrogen with half rate of Phosphorous and equal parts Potassium and 5% Iron. (i.e., 20-10-20 w/ 5% Iron). This will feed your lawn incrementally until the Fall, increase turf density and rooting, and enhance turf color during the hot summer months

**Weeds, Disease, and Insects** – Preventative measures can help reduce the number of pesticides used on your lawn

- **Late February** – Apply your Spring Pre-Emergent (i.e., Dimension) at the medium labeled rate. This will help prevent summer grassy weeds such as crabgrass and goosegrass.
- **Mid-April** – We suggest a Broad-Spectrum Fungicide treatment (i.e., Azoxystrobin) to help prevent Spring and early summer diseases such as large patch.
- **Mid-April** – Billbugs can be active this time of year and damage your roots. Use a Broad-Spectrum Contact Insecticide treatment (i.e., Bifenthrin) for control of these pests.
- **Early June** – A Broad Spectrum Insecticide Systemic treatment (i.e., Imidacloprid) will provide both preventative and curative control for fire ants, mole crickets and grubs.
- **Late September** - Billbugs can be active this time of year and damage your roots. Use a Broad-Spectrum Contact Insecticide treatment (i.e., Bifenthrin) for control of these pests.

- **Early October** – Apply your Fall Pre-Emergent (i.e., Barricade) at the medium labeled rate. This will help prevent Winter weeds such as Poa Annua, Carolina Geranium and other broadleaf weeds.

**Mowing and Cultural Maintenance** – Empire does best maintained at a mowing height between 1” and 1.5”

- **Spring** – Once your lawn begins to green up (late March) drop your mower one notch lower and give it a nice “shave” while either bagging or raking up the clippings. This will remove the dormant top and allow new growth to start pushing through.
- **Summer** – During periods of excessive growth (lots of clippings) it would be beneficial to collect the clippings (bag or rake) to prevent thatch build-up. It’s also a good time to aerify your lawn to reduce compaction and thatch, and allow oxygen to penetrate the rootzone.

**Irrigation** – Deeper, infrequent watering helps promote longer roots that can withstand longer periods of heat and drought

- **Early Spring** – Conduct an Irrigation Audit to ensure all heads are working properly and coverage is adequate
- **Spring/Summer** – Increase times, not days. Your lawn’s demand for water is lower during this time but still needs adequate moisture as it transitions into the Spring/Summer. Plan on ½” of water per week in the early Spring and ramping up to 1” per week in the Summer.
- **Late Summer/Early Fall** – During this period you will start pulling back on watering as the days get shorter and the nights get cooler.

**Pro Tips!**

- Better to under fertilize than over!
- In more shaded areas, raise the mowing height to give your lawn the best chance to thrive in those areas!
- Keep an eye out for those Billbugs in the Spring!
- Sharp blades are essential to maintaining a healthy Empire lawn!

