



Best Management Practices

www.modernturf.com

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

- **February** – Soil test, liming based on soil results. Centipede prefers a pH around 5.5 but no more than 6.
- **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 (i.e., 20-10-20). This will feed your lawn incrementally until the Fall, increasing turf density and rooting 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.
- **Early June** – A Broad Spectrum Insecticide treatment (i.e., Imidacloprid) will provide both preventative and curative control for fire ants, mole crickets and grubs.
- **Late September** – 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 – Centipede does best maintained at a mowing height between 1.5” and 2”

- **Spring** – Once your lawn begins to green up and start growing (late March) start your mowing height on the higher side and lower it incrementally moving forward until you reach your desired height.

- **Summer** – It's a good time to aerify your lawn to reduce compaction and allow oxygen to penetrate the rootzone.
- **Early Fall** – Start raising mowing heights in late Summer/early Fall to help protect your Centipede lawn going into the Winter months.

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. Mother Nature typically provides enough moisture in our area during April but ideally you're looking for ½" of water per week in early Spring and ramping up to 1" per week by the time we're fully into 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!

- Keep it simple! Over managing is the #1 cause of failing Centipede lawns!
- If it's grey, don't mow it! Centipede is a shallow rooting grass and a grey color is a sign of drought stress and can be damaged by mowing!
- Do not apply any Nitrogen to Centipede after August 15th!
- Raise the mowing heights in late Summer to provide protection for your Centipede going into Fall and Winter!

