

# THE LADYBUG

## 3 Things to Love About Your Lawn

Bermuda, Zoysia, and Fescue grasses are extremely popular in Atlanta – and for good reason. Here's a quick look at each one's particular strengths and appeal.

### Bermuda:

- Bounces back from drought beautifully
- Tolerates foot traffic very well provided it gets full sun
- Better pest resistance than many other grasses

### Zoysia:

- Does well in both partial shade and sunny areas
- Requires less frequent mowing than other grasses
- Irresistibly soft to the touch and pleasing to the eye

### Fescue:

- Grows further south than other cool-season grasses, offering a verdant fall lawn
- Thrives in shade that would cause Bermuda or Zoysia to fail
- Strong weed resistance when aerated and overseeded regularly

## Tips for Helping Your Lawn Beat the Heat

There's nothing quite like the lively, vibrant color of a healthy lawn in springtime. But as the intense sun and heat of summer set in, your lawn can start looking stressed and lackluster if it doesn't get proper care. There are a few simple things you can do to help it stay green and healthy all summer long.



**Water Wisely.** Between rainfall and irrigation, your lawn needs an inch of water per week.

- **Water in the morning, preferably by 10 am.** This limits the amount of water that evaporates due to intense sun, allowing more of it to percolate deep into the soil. Skip late-evening and nighttime watering because the prolonged moisture on the grass promotes fungal diseases.
- **Avoid frequent, shallow watering.** You'll want to divvy up the weekly inch of water into a couple of sessions instead of watering lightly several times a week. Less frequent, more thorough irrigation encourages the grass roots to grow deeper.
- **Make sure not to overwater.** Habitual overwatering is just as harmful as not watering enough. Excess water washes away soil nutrients and can drown the roots.

**Mowing Matters.** Never cut off more than one-third of the grass blade in a single mowing.

- **Raise the mower blade a bit.** Letting grass grow a little higher in the summer helps to reduce the risk of heat stress. The longer blades shade the soil, keeping it cooler and better hydrated.
- **Keep your mower blade sharp.** A dull blade rips and tears the grass instead of cutting it. This leaves behind ragged ends that quickly turn brown.
- **Avoid mowing a wet lawn.** Similarly, you will not get a clean cut when the grass is wet. Plus mower wheels can create ruts in damp soil, especially if you use a ride-on mower.

**Feed Faithfully.** In general, most lawns should be fertilized every six to eight weeks, even in times of drought or excessive heat.

- **Know whether your grass is warm-season or cool-season.** Warm-season Bermuda and Zoysia have different nutritional needs from cool-season Fescue and benefit from fertilizers designed for their particular type.
- **Test your soil.** Poor soil may require special treatments. A simple soil test can determine whether nutrients or other amendments need to be added. When a lawn is not doing well despite proper care, we recommend doing a soil test.



## May/June Lawn Care Application #3

### Lawn Care

#### Fertilization

Warm-season and cool-season grasses each get an appropriate blend of our proprietary organic fertilizer.

#### Lawn Inspection

We monitor for signs of lawn disease and grub problems and make treatment recommendations.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

A synthetic pre-emergent prevents crabgrass and other grassy weeds; a synthetic post-emergent kills broadleaf weeds over the next two weeks.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care

(Simply Plus Program)

This treatment includes an insecticide to help with pest control, a dormant oil to prevent fungal diseases, and a fertilizer to promote the growth and overall health of your ornamental trees and shrubs.

## July/August Lawn Care Application #4 & #5

### Lawn Care

#### Fertilization

We apply poultry litter for high-quality nitrogen and other nutrients that promote healthy growth.

#### Lawn Inspection

We monitor for signs of summer diseases and make treatment recommendations.

#### Weed Control (hybrid option)

We apply a post-emergent to kill broadleaf weeds. The August treatment also includes a pre-emergent that targets grassy weeds.

### Ornamental Tree & Shrub Care

(Simply Plus Program)

#### Bee Safe Pest & Disease Control

Our neonic-free treatments include a bee-safe insecticide to control aphids and other pests and dormant oil to prevent fungal diseases such as powdery mildew.

### What You Need to Do Until Our Next Visit

#### Leave Grass Clippings After Mowing

The clippings recycle back into the soil and provide nutrients. Mowing after we treat is fine as long as any wet applications have dried.

#### Raise Your Mower Blade High for Fescue

Longer grass lowers the soil temperature, which is good for cool-season Fescue.

#### Ensure Your Lawn Gets 1 Inch of Water Each Week from Rain or Watering

Water in the morning or, if that's not possible, around 4 pm. Avoid late-evening and nighttime watering.

#### Trim Shrubs Regularly & Replenish Mulch

Regular trimming encourages fuller growth, and a 3-inch layer of mulch retains soil moisture.

#### Inspect Your Yard Once a Week

Watch for discolored patches in grass and on ornamental tree and shrub leaves, as well as insect infestations. Call us immediately if you see any problems so we can nip them in the bud.

## Help Us Defend Your Yard Against Summer Threats

Heat stress isn't the only threat to your yard this summer. Pests thrive this time of year, and Atlanta's humidity doesn't help. On your weekly yard inspection, keep an eye out for the following:

**Funguses:** Discolored spots or patches in the lawn often signal a fungal infection, such as brown patch or dollar spot.

**Japanese beetles:** These feed on ornamental trees and shrubs, causing leaves to turn brown and, eventually, die and fall off.

**Grubs:** Telltale signs include birds flocking on the lawn and unexplained dead or bare spots.

*If you notice any of these problems, contact us ASAP. Prompt treatment makes all the difference.*



## Helpful Contact Information

### Simply Organic Turf Care

770.777.0764

800 Langford Drive, Suite B

Norcross, Georgia 30071

[SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com](http://SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com)

### Branch Manager

Nathan Wacker

O: 770.777.0764 Ext. 1285

C: 404.825.6861

[Nathan@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com](mailto:Nathan@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com)



Let nature do the work

**Questions about our service or your yard?** Contact Customer Service at 770.777.0764, Monday through Friday, 8 am–5 pm, or our branch manager at [Nathan@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com](mailto:Nathan@SimplyOrganicTurfCare.com). Leave a message after hours; we'll return your call the next business day.

