Time to Fertilize Warm-Season Grasses

June is the time to fertilize warm-season lawn grasses such as bermudagrass, buffalograss, and zoysiagrass. These species all thrive in warmer summer weather, so this is the time they respond best to fertilization. The most important nutrient is nitrogen (N), and these three species need it in varying amounts.

Bermudagrass requires the most nitrogen. High-quality bermuda stands need about 4 lbs. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. during the season (low maintenance areas can get by on 2 lbs.). Apply this as four separate applications, about 4 weeks apart, of 1 lb. N per 1,000 sq. ft. starting in early May. It is already too late for the May application, but the June application is just around the corner. The nitrogen can come from either a quick- or slow-release source. So any lawn fertilizer will work. Plan the last application for no later than August 15. This helps ensure the bermudagrass is not overstimulated, making it susceptible to winter-kill.

Zoysiagrass grows more slowly than bermudagrass and is prone to develop thatch. Consequently, it does not need as much nitrogen. In fact, too much is worse than too little. One and one-half to 2 pounds N per 1,000 sq. ft. during the season is sufficient. Split the total in two and apply once in early June and again around mid-July. Slow-release nitrogen is preferable but quick-release is acceptable. Slow-release nitrogen is sometimes listed as “slowly available” or “water insoluble.”

Buffalograss requires the least nitrogen of all lawn species commonly grown in Kansas. It will survive and persist with no supplemental nitrogen, but giving it one lb. N per 1,000 sq. ft. will improve color and density. This application should be made in early June. For a little darker color, fertilize it as described for zoysiagrass in the previous paragraph, but do not apply more than a total of 2 lb. N per 1,000 sq. ft. in one season. As with zoysia, slow-release nitrogen is preferable, but fast-release is also OK. As for all turfgrasses, phosphorus and potassium are best applied according to soil test results because many soils already have adequate amounts of these nutrients for turfgrass growth. If you need to apply phosphorus or potassium, it is best to core aerate beforehand to ensure the nutrients reach the roots. (Ward Upham)


In a twist on the typical wheat field day that Kansas farmers often attend, K-State Research and Extension will host a two-part wheat field day live on YouTube to update growers and others on the most recent crop advances and challenges while keeping producers safe from COVID-19.
The May 27-28 Virtual Wheat Field Day 2020 is really two “field evenings,” with each one to begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. Agriculture Today radio host Eric Atkinson will moderate the program. The format will allow for questions from the audience. Growers are encouraged to attend one or both evenings on YouTube Live at separate links:


**May 28 session** - [https://youtu.be/VrF3F2yqJpc](https://youtu.be/VrF3F2yqJpc)

The program, with each speaker presenting from their own homes, includes:

### May 27
- Welcome and introduction – Eric Atkinson, host of Agriculture Today radio show
- State of the 2020 Kansas wheat crop and variety selection in different parts of Kansas – Romulo Lollato, K-State Extension Agronomist
- Diseases in the 2020 Kansas wheat crop; selecting varieties with disease resistance in mind – Erick DeWolf, K-State plant pathologist
- Variety performance and selection in western Kansas - Lucas Haag, K-State Northwest Area agronomist
- Introduction: New K-State extension wheat pathologist – Kelsey Andersen
- Discussion panel with questions from the audience – Eric Atkinson

### May 28
- Welcome and introduction – Eric Atkinson
- Current and upcoming K-State varieties for central Kansas – Allan Fritz, K-State wheat breeder;
- Current and upcoming K-State varieties for western Kansas – Guorong Zhang, K-State wheat breeder
- Variety performance and selection in central Kansas – Stu Duncan, K-State northeast area extension agronomist
- Overview of Kansas Wheat Commission-sponsored research - Aaron Harries, KWC
- Discussion panel with questions from the audience – Eric Atkinson

More information is available by contacting Romulo Lollato at lollato@ksu.edu or 785-477-4644.

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**Top 4 Tips for Processing Calves**
- Plan to castrate early and consider implanting for maximum growth
- Perform maintenance on syringes and keep vaccines at the appropriate temperature
- Organize to be sure you have the correct help on hand
- Match the vaccine program to the needs of the herd