Annual Cutback

Cool Season Grasses:

Amount of cutback varies by species and winter conditions. Rake or remove dead foliage, cut back brown foliage. Burning can damage or kill these plants. Cutting back or removing green foliage can weaken the plants. Examples of cool season grasses are:


Warm Season Grasses:

Can be slow to establish and are very slow to start growing in the spring in cold climates. Growth stops in cold weather, often with the first frost. Growing point is at root-shoot junction, or crown. Burning can stimulate spring growth. Fall cutback may predispose plants to winter injury. Removal of tops in spring is required for public settings and enhances spring growth. Common warm season grasses are:


Trimming or decorative cutback: Florida, hedging, in public spaces. Can compromise the plant’s health, ok for aggressive species.

Electric hedge shears, lawn mower, hand trimming, string trimmer blade. Compost clippings.
Division

**Cool Season Grasses:**
Spring preferred by can be done in fall with one month of growing conditions prior to winter.

**Warm Season Grasses:**
Divide in spring only except for very vigorous plants or species. Stem cuttings propagation can be successful with *Pancium, Pennisetum and Miscanthus* species. Large old plants can be difficult to handle, and tell what is dead or alive until after growth starts. Bunch grasses often become dead centers after 10 years.

**Rhizome Control**
Concrete, paving or other major structure, divide often, good for poor soils and difficult sites

**Staking**
Plant in full sun as much as possible. Staking for public areas may work, but for most settings is not practical, select species and cultivars that do not lodge.

**Pest Control**
**Weeds:** preemergent controls seeds; broadleaf chemicals do not harm grasses. Careful observation; mulching, cut off seedheads, plant selection

**Ants:** disperse as needed, find queen.

**Rodents:** difficult, baits, look for tunnels and discourage nesting

**Rust:** feather reedgrass and tufted hairgrass, not fatal but can be of concern. Good air circulation.