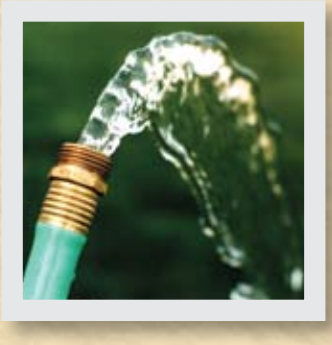
25 Years
BUCKEYE ECOCARE®
Your Hometown Lawn Care Company
Summer
435-GRAS
Visit us on-line at
www.buckeyeecocare.com

YOUR TREES & SHRUBS ARE THIRSTY!

When was the last time you watered your trees and shrubs? Though it may seem like they do just fine on their own, the truth is that your valuable landscape plants can benefit from supplemental watering in the absence of rainfall.

Your trees and shrubs are always competing with the grass around them for water. And just like grass, they'll give you signs of when they need water. Browning leaves or wilting leaves and stems are good signs that your trees and shrubs need a drink.

You should water less often, but deeply, to encourage deeper roots. On average, try to leave the sprinkler or soaker hose on three times as long as you would for grass.



If you want greener, healthier, more beautiful trees and shrubs, water can do wonders!

Maybe it's Time for a Makeover

START PLANNING NOW FOR LAWN REPAIRS

HAS YOUR LAWN SEEN BETTER DAYS?

During this time of year, lawns can look too thin or have bare spots. These appear as a result of damage from hot summer weather, compaction or even extra foot traffic. If your turf could use some help, you may want to consider a "lawn makeover," and right now is a great time to start planning for the process.

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE LOOKS AND HEALTH OF YOUR TURF:

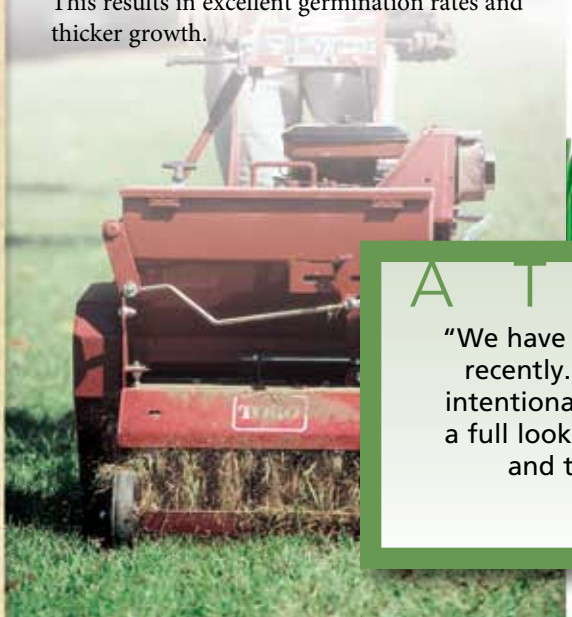
Core aeration – With this procedure, a machine known as a core aerator removes plugs of thatch and soil from your lawn. This promotes decomposition of the thatch layer and makes it easier for air, water and fertilizer to reach the root system. The result is a stronger root system and a greener, thicker lawn.

Topdressing and seeding – The smaller, more isolated bare spots can easily be seeded by simply adding bagged topsoil and seed. Topsoil in a bag has been sterilized so there are no weed seeds present to compete with your grass seed.

Slice seeding – Seed is deposited directly into the soil rather than spreading it out over the thatch layer (where it may not get a chance to sprout). This results in excellent germination rates and thicker growth.

If you choose to renovate your lawn with one of these procedures, keep in mind that they work best when done in the fall. Weather conditions are milder then, and any new grass seed will have less competition from weed seeds trying to grow. For more information on lawn repairs, call Buckeye EcoCare today.

Bare spots in lawns can be a result of hot summer weather, compaction, heavy foot traffic or a combination of all of these.



A TESTIMONIAL

"We have received many compliments on our yard recently. Friends can't believe how it looks. We intentionally left out many 'trees' to give the yard a full look. Thanks for 'showcasing' us in your ads, and thanks again for the great service!"

– Customer #12651

Back to the Basics

Mark Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

The cool, wet days of spring are gone, and the thick Kentucky bluegrass lawns may be starting to look a little anemic.

In previous newsletters we've talked about the three ingredients that all living organisms need to survive: food, water and oxygen. Today, we're going to talk about the three nutrients that make up most fertilizer treatments: nitrogen, phosphorus and potash (potassium). Fertilizers provide turfgrass with the nutrients needed to grow and maintain health, and this in turn provides for thick, green, competitive turf.

Plants are affected by what they're fed, just like humans. A person's proper health and growth depends on a steady, consistent, nutritious diet, not just a huge meal now and then. Your Buckeye EcoCare fertilizer applications are based on local soil tests, 25 years of experience, and the latest information provided by the Ohio State University Extension. Let's take a closer look at the carbohydrates, fats and proteins (N, P and K) that our plants need to survive.

Nitrogen (N) - Turfgrasses use nitrogen in larger quantities than any other nutrient, except for carbon (C), hydrogen (H) and Oxygen (O) which are supplied by air and water. Soils don't contain sufficient amounts of nitrogen to sustain turfgrass needs from year to year, and therefore we apply supplemental nitrogen to lawns periodically throughout the year. Nitrogen is responsible for helping plants maintain color, density and vigor.

Phosphorus (P) – This ranks next to nitrogen in its quantity within plants, and it supports many vital growth processes. Phosphorus is critical for root initiation and is the most important nutrient required for seedling germination and establishment. Many of the native soils here in southern Ohio have adequate amounts of phosphorus, and therefore mature lawns may only need small amounts of phosphate fertilizer.

Potash (K) - The third ingredient listed on all fertilizer bags is potash, or potassium. Potassium is needed for root strength and plant hardiness. If the soil doesn't provide the proper potassium on its own, the turf will suffer. Therefore it's necessary to add a steady, consistent fertilizer diet throughout the growing season.

Fertilization has always been a basic and essential step in turfgrass management. The Buckeye EcoCare staff and route managers know exactly which fertilizer products to apply, and also when and how to use them. Now all we need to do is figure out the water (rainfall) and oxygen ratios, and we can build the perfect lawns and landscapes.

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Green Corner

Graywater and Rainwater

If you're looking for ways to save water on your property, you're not alone. Water conservation is on lots of people's minds these days. Both graywater recycling and rainwater harvesting are gaining in popularity as a means of reducing water waste.

Graywater recycling. Graywater is wastewater from bathtubs, shower drains, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers. Graywater accounts for 60% of the outflow produced in homes, and it can be recycled for irrigation, toilets and exterior washing to promote water conservation.

Graywater recycling systems generally consist of a three-way diverter valve and a treatment assembly such as a sand filter, a holding tank, a bilge pump, and an irrigation or leaching system. Systems can either be custom-designed and built, or purchased as a package.

Rainwater harvesting. Techniques for rainwater harvesting can provide a free water source once the initial investment in collection and storage systems is recouped.

The parts of a complete system include the catchment area (a roof), a rainwater conveyance system (gutters and leaders), holding vessels (cisterns), a roof-wash system (usually the first 10 to 20 gallons of rain are diverted from the cistern), a delivery system (pumps), and a treatment system (filters and/or purifiers). Again, systems can be custom-designed and built, or purchased as a package.

Both graywater recycling and rainwater harvesting are great ways to help preserve our natural resources, and they can both provide you with cost savings on your water bill!

Rainwater harvesting can provide a free water source once your initial investment is recouped.