



**BUCKEYE  
ECOCARE®**

Summer



435-GRAS

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*Your Hometown Lawn Care Company*

[www.buckeyeecocare.com](http://www.buckeyeecocare.com)

## Resurrecting a Lifeless Lawn

WHAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE TURF LOOK LIKE NEW

*At this point in the growing season, you may notice thinning turf or bare spots in your lawn and wonder what could be causing the trouble. There are plenty of possible reasons for problems like these, including:*



Compacted soil



Excessive thatch



Insect or disease damage



Hot, dry weather

The good news is that your turf can be brought back to life again. Aside from proper mowing, fertilizing and watering practices, the following steps can make a world of difference.

### AERATION

Compacted soil and excessive thatch can starve turf roots of the air, water and nutrients they need to grow deep and strong. Aeration can help. With this process, we use a machine known as a core aerator to punch through turf and pull out plugs of soil and thatch, which are left behind to dissolve during rainfall or sprinkling. As the plugs dissolve, decomposition of the thatch layer is promoted. Plus, the holes created during aeration make it easier for air, water and nutrients to reach the roots.

### OVERSEEDING (WITH AERATION)

This is a great way to thicken up thin turf areas, and we do it by broadcasting seed evenly over any spots that need to be filled in. Overseeding always works better when there's

good seed-to-soil contact. If we aerate your lawn before overseeding, the seed will have some soil to lodge in and germination rates will be improved.

### SLICE SEEDING

This is the most efficient way to seed a very thin or badly damaged lawn. With a slice seeder (or slit seeder), we make vertical slits in the turf and deposit grass seed directly into the soil, all in one pass. This encourages high germination rates and thicker growth.

Late summer and fall are great times for renovation practices like these, since temperatures are milder and more conducive to new growth. In addition, new grass doesn't have as much weed competition once the growing season starts winding down.

If your lawn looks like it's struggling this summer, consider these steps to help get it back on track again! Give Buckeye EcoCare a call today to learn more.





Mark Grunkemeyer  
President, Buckeye EcoCare

# President's Message

*(It's Simple...Fruits, Vegetables and Carbohydrates)*



Like human beings, all plants require regular nutrition, and that means Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potash (K). If you look at any plant food or fertilizer label, you will find N, P and K percentages on the container.

In order for plants to compete against insect and disease pests, we feed them the correct amount of fruits, vegetables and carbs (N P K)

at the right time of the year. Periodic soil samples give us the information we need to develop our feeding programs here in the Miami Valley.

Along with a proper diet, good conditioning is essential for establishing a competitive lawn and landscape. For years, I have talked about thick turf being the best tool we have to out-compete weed, insect and disease damage. Proper mowing, watering and core aeration are the best ways to condition your lawn if we encounter drought conditions. Buckeye EcoCare lawns recover faster than "out of shape" lawns.

If you think about good nutrition, adequate hydration (watering) and proper conditioning, you can compare your lawn and

landscape to your body. The right balance of fruits, vegetables and carbs (N P K) is what your doctor preaches every time you visit him or her. Buckeye EcoCare and your route manager know exactly what your lawn's diet should be based on common sense and over 25 years of experience.



## DEAR BUCKEYE ECO CARE:

"You are at least the third lawn care service we have had. I was not satisfied with the first two, but your guys just get it right. My lawn is lush, green and weed-free. Presumably based upon its appearance, several of my neighbors have now started using your service. Your specialist servicing us, Michael, is very friendly, helpful, and does a good job. We are very pleased with your lawn service, and we have recommended your service to others."

Customer #16622



## Yellow Jackets? Yikes!

Yellow jackets can take the fun out of outdoor gatherings in a hurry. They're attracted to food items containing sugars, proteins and carbohydrates. Sweet foods and meats are especially enticing to them, and you can often find them hovering around picnic areas and garbage cans where these types of foods have been left behind.

As yellow jacket populations build up in the late summer, simply using a lawn mower or string trimmer can grow risky due to the potential for disturbing an underground nest. These social insects will vigorously defend their nests if they feel threatened, and unlike bees, they're capable of stinging repeatedly.

### COMMON-SENSE CONTROL

One way to decrease yellow jacket activity on your property is to make your outdoor living space less appealing to them. You can do this by:

- Making sure trash bins stay tightly covered.
- Promptly disposing of empty food and beverage containers, as well as used paper plates and plastic cups.

- Keeping any grilled meat and other foods properly wrapped up and out of sight when not in use.

### DESTROYING NESTS IS DANGEROUS

Yellow jackets are very aggressive, so it's usually best to leave their nests alone. Only the fertilized queen will survive through the winter, and she'll start a new nest in the spring in a different location. The rest of the yellow jackets will die off as cold weather sets in.

Sometimes, however, a nest's location makes it hazardous enough to warrant destruction. Though yellow jackets usually build their nests underground, nests can also be found under decks, in sheds, and even in the wall voids of homes. These types of nests can be destroyed with insecticides, which should be applied around dusk (when all of the pests are resting inside).

For professional management of yellow jackets or any other insect pests, give EcoCare Pest Control a call today at 435-PEST (7378). We'll be happy to help!

