



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Summer



937-435-GRAS

Visit us on-line at

Your Hometown Lawn Care Company

www.buckeyeecocare.com

GARDENING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Working in your garden can improve both your physical and mental health. Here's how:



- No time for the gym? You can burn around 200 calories an hour simply by weeding or cultivating soil. More strenuous garden work (hauling rocks, for example) can burn up to 600 calories an hour.
- Growing your own fruits and vegetables promotes healthier eating. After all, you're likely to eat more of these nutritious foods if you've grown them yourself.
- Studies have shown that spending time in a natural setting reduces stress and can help to lower blood pressure.

The benefits are clear, so what are you waiting for? Do your body and mind a favor, and head on out to the garden!

Sometimes It's Not Easy Being a Lawn

SUMMER HEAT, DROUGHT AND DISEASE CAN BE DAMAGING

Many lawns are going through a stressful period right now. High temperatures are tough on turf, and the excessive spring rains created very shallow roots. Combine the heat with long stretches of little or no rainfall, and lawns will start showing signs of heat and drought stress in no time.

If your grass is bluish-green in color, or if your footprints remain in the turf after you've walked on it, these are sure signs that your lawn can use some help. In severe cases, turf can go into a dormant state with the entire lawn turning brown.

WATER PROPERLY TO AVOID STRESS

The best way to prevent heat and drought stress is to give your lawn plenty of water.* As a general rule, your turf needs from 1" to 1½" of water per week from rainfall or sprinkling.

When sprinkling, it's important to let water soak in to a depth of 6" so that enough moisture reaches the roots. Less frequent, deeper watering is more beneficial than frequent, shallow sprinkling. Also, it's best to water during the cooler parts of the day when less water will evaporate in the sun's heat.

WHAT IF YOUR LAWN STILL LOOKS STRESSED?

If you are watering properly and your lawn still looks unhealthy, a summer turf disease may be to blame. Symptoms of turf disease usually involve spots on grass blades that vary in size and color.

Unlike heat and drought stress, which can affect the whole lawn at once, diseases affect only small portions of turf at first. They then work themselves outward as they spread, creating areas with major damage bordered by areas with minor damage. It's important to tend to lawn diseases as soon as possible after they're discovered to keep them in check and prevent further damage from occurring.

Summer can be intense, but your lawn doesn't have to suffer. Proper watering and disease controls (if necessary) can make the season much more tolerable. To learn more about summer lawn stress and how Buckeye EcoCare can help, give us a call today.

**If watering restrictions are in place, we encourage you to follow your city/county guidelines for water conservation, watering your lawn whenever allowed.*



Proper watering is essential.



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President's Message

Trees, Our Shady Friends

Forever, I have talked about trees and how we can't grow grass in the dark! And the truth is that shade and tree root competition definitely creates thin, non-competitive turf where trees grow. Today, we're going to talk about the benefits of trees.

We all know that trees matter and are important to society. However, until recently, we couldn't assign a specific dollar value to a tree other than the actual cost of purchasing one.

Thanks to the U.S. Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation, we now have software based on science to assess the value of trees and their economic and environmental benefits. This software is free at www.itreetools.org.

The software allows you to enter the size and species of a tree and receive the economic and environmental impact data for it. The older and larger a tree is, the greater the benefit in most cases. This



Mark Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

means that we not only need to plant new trees, but also take care of the ones we have. With the Emerald Ash Borer threatening all of the ash trees here in Ohio, now would be a good time to inventory your trees.

In conclusion, turfgrass managers may not like trees, but society does and the benefits are real. Landscape trees provide valuable shade that cools our homes during the summer months. Their roots are erosion control devices. And let's not forget about the aesthetic value of a scarlet maple in late October.

Even I would agree to give up a little grass to help our majestic friends, the trees, flourish in our landscapes, boulevards and parks.

Quick Tips for Summer Tree and Shrub Care

To keep your trees and shrubs looking and growing their best this summer, proper care and maintenance are essential. Each of them can benefit from the following:

SUPPLEMENTAL WATERING

In the absence of rainfall, you should provide your trees and shrubs with a long, deep soaking once per week (or whenever allowed if watering restrictions happen to be in place).

MAINTENANCE-LEVEL PRUNING

Broken, dead, diseased or insect-infested branches should be removed as they appear. If you have younger trees and shrubs on your property, shaping will improve their looks. Plus, this will keep



Regular inspections can help to nip potential problems in the bud.

them healthier as they age and prevent potential problems down the road.

ONGOING INSPECTION

It's important to keep an eye out for signs of insect or disease activity in your trees and shrubs. The sooner symptoms are discovered, the sooner treatment can begin. Wilting, browning leaves and premature defoliation are two signs that your trees and shrubs can use some help.

With the right care, the trees and shrubs in your landscape will improve with age and can last for generations!

Managing Mosquitoes

There's nothing like the sting of a mosquito bite to ruin an otherwise lovely summer evening. Sprays, citronella candles and bug zappers can provide some relief. Sometimes, however, that's not enough. For even better control, you can take steps to prevent these pests from breeding in the first place.

IT'S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

The "magic" ingredient that allows mosquitoes to breed is water. More specifically, mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, and the eggs hatch in just a day or two. Since many generations of mosquitoes are capable of breeding in your yard, it makes sense to remove any sources of standing water that aren't absolutely necessary.

For example:

- Old tires, cans, bottles, jars or buckets should be drained, turned upside down or removed.
- "Kiddie pools" should be emptied weekly, or stored indoors when not in use.
- Leaky faucets that allow water to collect underneath should be repaired.
- Bird baths should be changed often (once or twice per week).
- Pets' water dishes should be emptied and refilled daily.

These simple steps can help to reduce the mosquito population around your home. When you consider that mosquitoes can

DEAR BUCKEYE ECOCARE:

"I want to thank your technician who was out to do my service call on Wednesday. He did an awesome job! He took his time and did not rush. I also want to thank you for not doing it in the rain. I've worked with TruGreen and Leisure Lawn and they don't care how much it's raining as long as it's done. I'm glad I chose you guys. Thanks and keep up the great work!"

– Customer #192423

spread diseases to humans, and heartworms to pets, it will be well worth the time spent!

