

## THE RIGHT HEIGHT TO MOW

In the summer, it is tempting to drop the blade height on your mower to the lowest setting in an effort to drop the number of needed mowings. Mowing lower means mowing every other week, right?! Wrong.

While reduced mowing frequency may be nice, mowing too low (or 'scalping') jeopardizes the health of your turf. During the dog days of summer, grass blades provide shade to the soil beneath them, cooling the ground and providing relief from the scorching sun. Your lawn's root systems greatly benefit from this cool shade. It allows the roots to go about their business without drying out. This valuable shade is eliminated when a lawn is scalped.

Another problem with mowing too low is that in doing so, you are removing the turf's 'power plant.' Grass blades turn water and sunlight into much needed energy. When too much of the blade is removed, the turf's energy supply is reduced – compromising its overall health.

Setting your mower to only remove one third of the blade height per mowing gives a well-manicured look while still leaving your lawn thick and healthy. So give your lawn its due without overdoing it and raise your mower blade. A few extra mowings will be worth it in the long run.



## What Does Fertilizer Do?

If you are reading this, chances are that you are familiar with the idea of fertilizing your lawn. You've likely heard that it is a key part of successful lawn care, and something that you should probably do. But what purpose does fertilization really serve? Why is it seemingly so important? These are important questions whose answers can help guide your plan of action.

Like you and I, plants need food in order to live and grow. Whatever we eat is broken down to its most basic components and then used by our bodies to carry out a variety of functions such as growing new tissue or giving us the energy to go about our daily life.

Turfgrass is built to gather its food from the soil, extracting nutrients from the ground through the roots. Fertilizer provides turf with the same nutrients it collects from the ground, but in a highly refined and accessible form.

The three active ingredients in fertilizer are Nitrogen, Phosphorous\*, and Potassium. Each one of these performs a different function in creating healthy turf. Nitrogen is the primary active ingredient in turf fertilizer. Amino acids are the building blocks of all plant and animal cells, and all amino acids contain nitrogen.

Increased nitrogen levels encourage rapid new growth and dramatic greening of the turf. Phosphorous helps the turf create organic compounds which result in large, strong roots. It also helps the plant produce chlorophyll which is essential to the process of turning water and sunlight into energy (photosynthesis). Potassium helps turf build valuable proteins that strengthen

turf against stresses such as drought and disease. The ratio of these three ingredients in any fertilizer vary. The ideal mix depends on the condition of your soil, as well as the age and overall health of your lawn.

The goal of fertilization is to give your lawn the necessary nutrients to achieve vibrant beauty now, and sustained health for the long run. Trust your team at Buckeye Ecocare to apply just the right amount of food at exactly the right time.

**GIVE US A CALL TODAY, AND WE WILL COME UP WITH A  
FERTILIZATION PLAN THAT IS JUST RIGHT.**

### Nitrogen

*Vigorous top growth,  
intense greening*

### Potassium

*Resistance to stresses  
from drought  
and disease*

### Phosphorous

*Encourages root  
growth, helps  
establish  
new turf*





# New EcoCare Strategies for 2016!

#1) Our Tree and Shrub experts just completed their second spray round of the year using only a bee-friendly insecticide product!

**Grandevo®** is a microbial based biopesticide that is highly active against many insect pests and mites. **Grandevo®** also has no adverse affects on honeybees and can be used during critical pollination periods.

#2) Keeping mosquitoes at bay this summer should involve three strategies that go beyond traditional insecticide sprays!

- a) Remove standing water. Mosquitoes breed anywhere there is still water. Clogged gutters, kiddie pools, rain barrels, flower pots, and swampy areas of turf will all result in mosquitoes if not removed.
- b) Tiki torches with insect repellents are available online and can serve as your first line of defense against all flying insect pests.
- c) **Wondercide™** is an all natural flea, tick and pest control solution that is available online at [wondercide.com](http://wondercide.com) or at Buckeye Ecocare. **Wondercide™** can be applied safely to your skin, your pets, or applied to your lawn and landscape plants.



Tom R. Grunkemeyer  
President, Buckeye EcoCare

## Because We Care.

## Dig In Against Grubs

Of all the threats your lawn faces, grubs are one of the most common and the most detrimental. Once present in large numbers, grubs feast upon your turf's root systems and can kill large sections of your lawn. The key to avoiding grub disaster is knowing your enemy and acting accordingly.

Grubs are thick, white worms that are about an inch long and very hungry. Mid-summer marks the start of grub activity with their feeding cycle peaking in the early fall.

Preventative grub treatment applied prior to the season can rid your lawn of grubs before their eggs even hatch. Without a preventative application, the trick to staying on top of grubs is regular inspections throughout the season. If you think you might have grubs, grab a handful of the suspect turf and pull it up. If it comes up like a loose carpet, there is a good chance that grubs have disconnected the turf from the ground. If this is the case, you will see grubs hanging out between the turf and the soil.

Not all instances of grubs demand action, in fact five or less grubs per square foot of turf is thought to be a 'safe' amount. More than that will require some sort of treatment. Timing is crucial for most grub treatments. You won't know that you need a treatment until you see signs of damage, but if the damage is extensive, it may be too late. If you're unsure of the best course of action, give us a call today and we'll be happy to assess your situation.



### Client Testimonial:

*"It's only been two weeks and it appears my lawn is thickening up and weeds are dying. I'm impressed and pleased with how meticulous your applications are made. Kudos to your staff and specialists! Appears to be a job well done!"*

~ Customer #495147



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