



**BUCKEYE  
ECOCARE®**

Late Spring



*Family Owned Since 1984*

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*"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."*

~ Margaret Atwood

Indeed, the warm weather and longer days of spring are both a gift and a call to duty. To really enjoy our lawns, it's necessary to give them the attention they require. Hopefully, the act of tending your yard is enjoyable in and of itself. Chances are though, that there are at least a few yard tasks that you'd like to minimize, if not eliminate altogether. Removing weeds is likely one of these not-so-desirable chores.

Fortunately, there are ways to limit the amount of time you spend on your knees, digging up weeds. In this issue we explore a few ways that you can proactively fight these unwanted guests. You may not mind smelling like dirt at the end of a long spring day, but it's best if you've enjoyed the process.

## Don't Get Lost in the Weeds



Now that spring is in full bloom, you have hopefully been about the business of enjoying your lush, thriving lawn. Chances are that this fresh new growth of grass has also been accompanied by some unwelcome intruders. If it seems like weeds come out of nowhere, it is because they are built to go everywhere. Dandelions, for example, have 200 puffy seeds on each seed head – ready to take flight and spread at any moment. But dandelions are just one of 2,000 types of weeds which infiltrate lawns in the U.S. Their seeds can be spread by air, water, animals, and even you. Seeds cling to fur, feathers, even our clothing and lawn equipment. This means that your lawn likely has thousands of dormant seeds waiting just below the surface – ready to spring to life as soon as the conditions are right.

Given these numbers, fighting weeds can seem like an uphill battle. Fortunately, there is a solution, but it requires a multi-pronged attack. A pre-emergent herbicide treatment can prevent many weeds from appearing at all. The key to pre-emergents is an early application before weeds have had the opportunity to germinate. After that point, weeds can still be addressed with spot treatments of post-emergent herbicide. Remember that most post-emergents are selective and will kill only the weeds – but there are some that kill the grass as well. When in doubt, the best option is to consult a professional when it comes to herbicide applications.

While chemical treatments can be helpful, they are only part of successful weed management. To really gain an upper hand, your turf itself must be well cared for. In the wet spring months, your lawn explodes with new growth, making it hard for weeds to infiltrate. Unfortunately, weeds do well in summer's dry heat while grass starts to struggle. The best way to ensure your turf's health throughout the year is a complete fertilization schedule. In addition to this, adequate watering and a higher blade setting on your mower will help your turf maintain its viability – discouraging weeds. Attacking the weeds, while fostering your turf is a great one-two punch which leads to a rich, vibrant lawn.

### KEYS TO KEEPING WEEDS AT BAY

#### HERBICIDES SEEK AND DESTROY

- Early pre-emergent herbicide application (before germination)
- Selective post-emergent herbicide after weeds appear

#### THE BEST DEFENSE IS A GOOD OFFENSE

- Thorough fertilization schedule
- Proper watering and high blade setting



# Turfgrass: The Visible and Invisible Benefits

## ENVIRONMENTAL

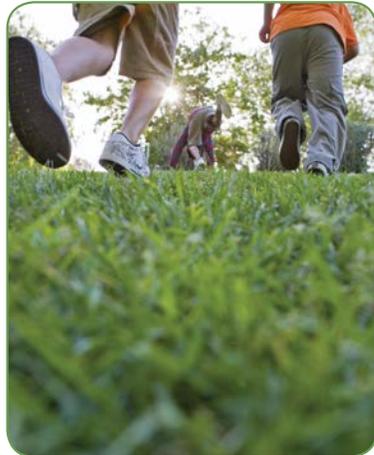
Turfgrass is the softest, safest playing surface for families, sports teams, and our pets. The NFL conducts a survey every year of its players and by a margin of 4 to 1, they prefer natural grass over artificial. According to Dr. John Street, Associate Professor of Horticulture at The Ohio State University, “You can’t find a plant that grows a denser groundcover per square inch.... When you go to the park for a picnic lunch, where do you throw your blanket?”

## COOLING EFFECT

According to the E.P.A., the annual mean temperature of a city versus a rural area is between 3.8 – 5.4 degrees WARMER. This phenomenon also known as the “heat island” effect can increase summertime peak energy demand, air conditioning costs, and greenhouse gas emissions. On a typical summer day, lawns are 30 degrees cooler than asphalt, 20 degrees cooler than artificial turf, and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.



Tom R. Grunkemeyer  
President, Buckeye EcoCare



## SOIL WATER AND NUTRIENT STABILIZER

Turfgrass plays an important role in soil erosion, water runoff, and dust control. The fibrous root systems of all turfgrass species form an excellent soil “netting” system that stabilizes soil on both flat and sloping lawns. Since turf is a perennial plant, and a stable ground cover that is not cultivated, it slows storm water runoff while reducing erosion potential. Turfgrass is one of the most effective and efficient soil pollutant filtration systems we have.

## CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Carbon sequestration is the capture and long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which can help reduce global warming. Healthy, well-maintained lawns absorb CO<sub>2</sub> associated with the greenhouse effect (global warming), and turfgrass serves as a great source of carbon storage! (A practical example of carbon sequestration: one soccer field can offset the carbon produced by a car driven 3,000 miles.)

## BONUS

Well-maintained lawns add value to your property and look good!

### Client Testimonial:

*“Thank you for all of your hard work, you are the best in the business!  
Our yard looks beautiful, we even won the City Beautiful Award!  
Thank you.”*

*~ Customer #111331*



## Standing Water Can Be a Drain

Does a forecast of prolonged wet weather bring a sense of foreboding in regards to more than just a washed out picnic or tee time? If so, chances are that your property suffers from poor drainage: an inability to properly collect and distribute rainwater.

Wet seasons and ground settling can influence how your lawn handles water. Sometimes, standing water in your lawn is the result of roots damaging or destroying underground drain pipes.

Drainage issues can render parts of your lawn inhospitable and unusable. If the problem area is close to your house, your foundation itself could be compromised.



There are several possible remedies to these issues. A rain garden is a landscape feature that is made up of plants that thrive in extremes when it comes to water supply. Another option is to plant trees or shrubs that require a large amount of water. Sycamores, willows, and alder bushes are just a few examples of woody plants which require a large amount of water.

Most often, homeowners simply want to rid their yards of standing water without adding new plants. In this case, the best option is the addition of some sort of drain or drainage tile to expel water. There are many varieties of these – but they are all considerable installations best done by a professional. A well designed setup will keep your lawn from sinking down the drain.