



POWERED BY

**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**



Family Owned Since 1984

Late Fall

Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.

~ Albert Camus

Even without getting too philosophical, it's easy to see how the above quote rings true. What we do today has ramifications tomorrow. Sometimes, it's next month, and other times, it may be years from now. After the Chicago Bulls had been bullied and bruised for years by the Detroit Pistons, Michael Jordan instituted an offseason weight training program, with the singular goal to be more physical than the Motor City Bad Boys. His teammates bought in, and the following spring, they swept the Pistons in the conference finals. That Bulls team would go on to be the NBA's dynasty of the 90s.

While most of us aren't superstar athletes leading our team to the next level, the principle of preparation applies to many aspects of everyday life. This is especially true when it comes to lawn care. Attention that you give to your lawn today is fully realized in the months and years to come. In this issue, we talk about how fertilizing and aerating your turf in the fall results in a healthy and robust lawn next spring.

FOOD FOR FALL

Even as cooler temperatures and shorter days make your lawn less of a focus, now is not the time to forget about it. There are still things you can do that your turf will greatly appreciate.

NEW SEASON, NEW GROWTH

While your grass's growth appears to be slowing down, it's really just shifting its focus. Most plants, including turf, use the fall months to expand and fortify their root systems. When growth slows dramatically in the winter, your lawn depends on the nutrient reserves it received in the fall.

By giving your lawn a nourishing fall fertilization, you take full advantage of this foundational time of year. Early in the year, fertilizer with a large percentage of nitrogen encourages vigorous blade growth. Later in the fall, this nitrogen is directed toward root expansion, which increases your lawn's ability to store valuable carbohydrates over the winter. A late-fall fertilization also typically includes a large amount of potassium. This nutrient aids in food production as well as making your grass more resistant to cold weather and drought. When possible, slow-release fertilizers should be a part of your late-season treatment.

SOIL RECHARGE

For many lawns, fall is an ideal time to add soil amendments such as leaf compost or other organic materials. The stresses of the growing season can greatly alter your lawn's chemistry. Rain, heat, and the transfer of nutrients can decrease your lawn's ability to store nutrients.

Organic materials such as compost or manure can help repair and recharge your soil after a taxing season. Spreading organic material throughout your lawn in the fall allows it to break down over the winter and help reduce your soil pH. Once spring arrives, your lawn will be well prepared to accommodate rapid turf growth.

Before you wind down for good this season, be sure to give your lawn one last bit of TLC. Mowing shorter helps reduce winter kill in your lawn. The steps you take now to strengthen your lawn and the soil where it lives will result in a vibrant, green explosion next year.



—“

Most plants, including turf, use the fall months to expand and fortify their root systems.

—”



GREEN SPACES BENEFIT MENTAL HEALTH

Most would agree that parks, forests, and landscaped areas are nice to look at. It turns out that in addition to their aesthetic qualities, green spaces can bolster the mental health of all who experience them.

A study published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* (2017 Nov.) says this: "Individuals have less mental distress, less anxiety and depression, greater well-being and healthier cortisol profiles when living in urban areas with more green space compared with less green space."

The article goes on to note: "Simple exposure to nature environments is psychologically restorative and has beneficial influences on individuals' emotions and ability to reflect on life problems."



Anyone who has felt somehow "better" after a hike in the woods, a stroll in the park, or an afternoon on a golf course can attest to these benefits. It is impressive, however, to see this notion stand up to experimental scientific scrutiny.

As the world becomes more urbanized, the public health benefits of green spaces should be a key factor when planning new residential and commercial districts. It's also a good thing to remember as you plan your own private green space. Designing, maintaining, and enjoying your lawn and garden isn't just a cosmetic improvement; it's an improvement to your family's mental health and well-being.

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

2020 may go down as the most challenging and interesting year in the history of our company. We started out in March as a "non-essential" business, mandated by our governor, and lost six critical days of production. When key personnel became ill during the season, we lost them for two weeks - not two days - in order to keep the rest of our team safe. As we look back, we consider ourselves very lucky. Most other service organizations suffered greatly during the 2020 health crisis.

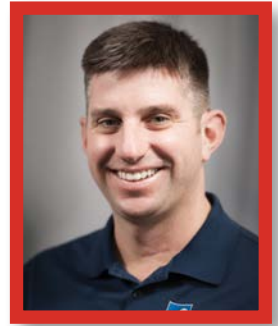
We have mentioned in earlier newsletters that change in the green industry is inevitable, but at Buckeye EcoCare, our one constant is quality personnel providing guaranteed service. Over the past 36 years, we have been blessed with the greatest team of professionals in the industry. Do we drop the ball every now and then? Absolutely. Do we strive to become better every day? Positively. 2020 was a year of great challenges, and with your patience and understanding, most of the lawns and landscapes in southwest Ohio recovered nicely from our mini-drought in July. As our thoughts turn to 2021, we look forward to change, we are optimistic about putting this pandemic behind us, and we hope to return to some form of normalcy. This wonderful country of ours survived the Great Depression, two world wars and the 9/11 tragedy that most of us can recall. We will surely survive Covid-19.

The entire Buckeye EcoCare team thanks you for your loyalty, patience and understanding, and we certainly are looking forward to a safe and healthy 2021 for all of us. As always, your route manager will be contacting you this winter, and your prepay opportunity will be out in early 2021.

Stay safe,
Mark and Tom Grunkemeyer



Mark T. Grunkemeyer
CEO, Buckeye EcoCare



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

CONTACT US TODAY! CustomerService@BuckeyeEcoCare.com

South Dayton: 937-435-4727 • North Dayton: 937-236-4727

Cincinnati: 513-641-4727 • Troy: 937-552-3800



SEAL UP YOUR HOME

As much as you try to make your home warm and inviting, not all would-be guests make good company. Insects and rodents have their place, but that place is *not* in your home.

Although different pests invade your home at different times throughout the year, fall can be particularly problematic. As temperatures dip, outside animals and insects seek the sheltered warmth of places like your home. Any gap, crack, or vent in your house can be a potential entry point for mice, spiders, and stink bugs (to name just a few).



Before these pests set up shop, inspect your home for any vulnerable areas. It doesn't take much space for these intruders to get inside. Perimeter pest control treatments can also protect your home this winter and beyond. Most of the time, these chemical barriers can be applied around the outside of your house without a technician ever needing to come inside.

Before cold weather makes your home a popular hangout for insects and rodents, seal your house up for the winter with a non-invasive perimeter pest treatment.

CALL US TODAY AT 937-435-PEST (7378)!