



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984



PREVENTATIVE WEED CONTROL

Your lawn may appear to be an orderly and consistent carpet of lush, green grass. If you're lucky, this may be the case. The more common reality is that your turf areas are battlegrounds where your intended grass battles with weeds, including rogue varieties of grass, to achieve dominance. Invasive, unwanted weeds compete with your turf for water, nutrients and space. Your grass has a much better chance to win this fight if you join the battle as well.

Pre-emergent herbicide treatments are a proactive measure that kills off annual grassy weeds before they have a chance to cause a disturbance. This is especially helpful when fighting an aggressive weed like crabgrass. Crabgrass seeds are incredibly durable and can stay viable and dormant for extended periods. Once conditions are suitable, crabgrass comes out in force, spreading quickly throughout your turf areas. Unfortunately, the dry and hot conditions that are problematic for most lawns are very favorable for crabgrass. If not addressed, crabgrass can overtake your entire lawn.

Pre-emergent herbicides create a seal on your soil's surface, disabling a key enzyme that results in weed seed germination. Dormant seeds are unable to develop, while established turf is unaffected. When applying pre-emergents, timing is crucial. If applied too early, the active ingredients that inhibit weed growth will dissipate before they can be of any help. If not applied before May 1, the ship will have sailed and weeds will be able to develop as normal.

Proactivity pays when it comes to caring for your lawn. The more turf issues that can be totally avoided, the less costly and difficult your lawn will be to maintain. Preventing invasions of aggressive weeds like crabgrass sets your turf up for a vital and healthy year. Before the battle for your lawn becomes an all-out war, ask us for help with pre-emergent treatments.



WHY DO WE FERTILIZE?



Most homeowners realize that fertilizing their lawn is a beneficial practice. The mechanics and composition of fertilizer are sometimes unclear. Turfgrass creates its own food supply through the process of photosynthesis that converts water, sunlight and carbon dioxide into usable sugar. Fertilizers help this process along and help direct turf growth by aiding a variety of growth functions.

The ingredients that make up fertilizer can be lumped into two primary groups of macronutrients and micronutrients. Large amounts of macronutrients are needed, while micronutrients are needed in smaller quantities. Macronutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, magnesium and sulfur encourage blade growth, root growth and green color. They also strengthen the cell walls of turf plants and aid in disease resistance. Micronutrients include minerals such as iron, zinc, manganese and copper. These nutrients are important ingredients for your lawn's production of chlorophyll. They also act as catalysts for the reactions that drive turf's metabolism and growth regulation.

These nutrients are found in soil in varying amounts, depending on a number of factors. To ensure that your lawn receives all the necessary nutrients, well-timed and well-balanced applications are the way to go. Ideal schedules and formulations vary, depending on your region, turf type and soil condition. If you have questions about providing your lawn with the nutrients it needs, we can provide the answers!

MAKE THE MOST OF COMPOST!

Composting is a practice that reduces your household's waste while creating nutrient-rich soil that your plants will love. A compost bin can be a simple container, as long as the composting material is able to stay in contact with air. Once you have a bin established, keep these best composting practices in mind:

STIR THE POT: The composting process is one where bacteria break down organic material. Bacteria need oxygen in order to do this. By stirring the compost every few weeks, you ensure that the decomposing materials are exposed to enough oxygen to keep the process going.

SHRED IT UP: Just like chewing your food is the first step of the digestion process, shredding larger compost material makes composting more efficient. Reducing leaves, vegetable scraps and other bulky refuse helps compost decompose into usable soil more quickly.

SPECIAL INGREDIENTS: Nitrogen is an important ingredient in the composting process. This naturally occurring element is especially concentrated in both alfalfa and bone meal. By adding one or both of these "activators" to your compost, you facilitate its progress. Another necessary ingredient is water.

Composting is an ecologically responsible and economically smart lawn and garden practice. By following a few easy composting guidelines, you can reduce household waste while creating nutrient-rich soil for your landscape.



TIME AND CHANGE

Now that 2020 is behind us and we can breathe a sigh of relief, let's take a look at some of the changes and opportunities 2021 will bring to Buckeye EcoCare and our customers.

If COVID-19 taught us nothing else, we learned that not all customer interactions need to be in person. Like it or not, digital communications are here to stay. Below are a few items you may want to review with your route manager.

- YES** 1. Can Buckeye EcoCare measure my lot and provide a "guesstimate" lawn care quote via e-mail?
- YES** 2. Can Buckeye EcoCare e-mail my annual prepay invoice to me every winter?
- YES** 3. Can Buckeye EcoCare provide me with digital, time-sensitive lawn and landscape tips every month during the growing season?
- YES** 4. Am I missing out on valuable savings and information if Buckeye EcoCare doesn't have my current e-mail address on file?
- YES** 5. Can Buckeye EcoCare alert me about important weather information and savings opportunities via my home phone or cell phone?
- YES** 6. Can Buckeye EcoCare send my invoice to me via e-mail?

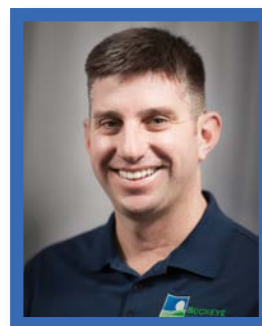
Yes, we have the ability to e-mail you an invoice, but we are also required by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to post a flag and leave a detailed "right to know" accounting on your invoice of all pesticides we used on your property the day of treatment. We will be happy to provide both options at your request!

Thirty-seven years ago, when Mark and Peggy founded Buckeye EcoCare, the above communication tools were not available. Today, we have advanced technology, newer and safer ways to deliver our services, and most importantly, fertilizers and pesticides that do a better job of ensuring greener futures for all of us.

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Cincinnati: 513-641-4727 • Troy: 937-552-3800 • Fort Recovery: 419-375-5400



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A recent note from a satisfied customer...

"You guys did a great job on my lawn last year. That means a lot coming from me, an industry horticulturist all my life. Thanks."

- Brad L.