



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984



*"Do what we can, summer will have its flies."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

It's easy to interpret this quote symbolically. You could see it as a poetic way of describing the fact that even the best things have their imperfections. In the area of your lawn and garden, the quote can be taken at face value.

Warm weather brings with it an explosion of growth. Grass greens up and requires regular mowing. Buds bloom on trees as flowers emerge for the season. With all this beautiful new life, however, come challenges. Harmful insects, weeds, and plant diseases all kick into high gear and can pose significant risks to your lawn and landscape.

Some of these problems are obvious, while others require some investigation. Grubs can cause considerable damage to your lawn if they're not diagnosed and dealt with. In this issue, we talk about grubs and what you can do to stop them.

GRUBS AND GRASS ROOTS DO NOT MIX

Building a gorgeous and healthy lawn is no easy task. Proper fertilization, mowing practices, and irrigation are all important pieces of the lawn care puzzle. Unfortunately, a robust lawn with lush top growth and thick, juicy roots can become an attractive target for hungry grubs.

HUNGRY INTRUDERS

Grubs appear pretty harmless. These small, white, C-shaped worms are the larval forms of several types of beetles. As is the case with most infants, grubs' main goal is to eat voraciously in order to enable their growth to adulthood. A thick and healthy lawn provides exactly the type of feast that hungry grubs are looking for.

Most grub eggs hatch in the late summer and begin feeding right away. They then settle down for the winter before resuming feeding again in the spring. With each tender root that grubs consume, they chip away at your lawn's health. With the root systems depleted, your turf blades are left to wither and die. If left unchecked, grubs can sometimes destroy an entire lawn.



FREE YOUR LAWN

If you think you may have grubs, it's important to confirm that this is the case. Areas of brown or dying turf are the most obvious sign of potential grub damage. A further test is to grab a clump of damaged turf and try to pull it up. If it easily separates from the soil as if you were pulling up a carpet, this means that the roots are badly damaged. If grubs are the problem, you will likely see them in the exposed soil.

For the ideal treatment, timing is crucial. Grub prevention applications work best when the insects are actively feeding. For the best result, it's important to consult a professional lawn care technician. This ensures that treatments will be administered evenly throughout the problem area at a time that will be most effective.

Grubs can ruin an otherwise vibrant lawn. The good news is that your turf should be able to bounce back nicely if grubs are remedied in a timely manner. With vigilance and professional guidance, you can keep these nasty pests from ruining your summer!



DON'T WAIT TO POLLINATE!

In an effort to build and maintain a successful landscape, it's easy to focus on insects as pests. It's encouraging to know, however, that many insects can be quite helpful.

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and bats help plant life by aiding the flower fertilization process. As they go from flower to flower, feeding on nectar, pollinators distribute pollen, aiding in the growth process. Some pollinators, such as wasps, are natural predators of some of the destructive pests we discussed before, making wasps beneficial, if unpleasant.

Certain plants especially attract pollinators. By introducing these plants to your garden areas, you encourage their presence and promote the overall health of your landscape. Wildflowers and annuals that bloom in stages throughout the season give pollinators plenty of reason to call your backyard home. Milkweed and dill are especially attractive to butterfly larvae. A general rule is that plants that are native to your area will naturally invite pollinators to your property.

Not all insects are harmful. Many can actually help out quite a bit! Add some pollinator-friendly plants to your landscape and give beneficial wildlife a new home.



SAVE THE RAIN

Most homeowners are aware that they shouldn't waste water. In some desert areas, conservation efforts are enforced due to limited supply. Even when municipal water is in abundance, why pay for something that you could easily have for free?

A rain barrel is a simple feature that can supply ample water for your landscape. When attached to a downspout, a rain barrel collects a huge amount of rainwater with every shower. In fact, the average American residential roof collects 510 gallons of water for every half-inch of rain. It doesn't take much rain to fill up a standard 50-100 gallon rain barrel!

While you wouldn't want to use rainwater for drinking, it's perfect for irrigation. Plants prefer water in its most natural form, free from treatments that make it potable.

Why buy what nature provides? Install a rain barrel and put your roof to work!

KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS - FRIEND OR FOE?

For more than 15 years, we have talked about converting our tired old bluegrass lawns into the newer varieties of turf type tall fescue. In fact, many of our valued clients have moved forward with their turf renovation projects already. We thought you might like to know some of the pros and cons of both Kentucky Bluegrass (KBG) and turf type tall fescue (TTTF).

Bluegrass is a cool-season perennial grass best grown in full sun; it is vulnerable to heat stress, and some varieties are less wear-tolerant than others. As shown below, most species produce seed heads each year along with rhizomes (daughter plants) that are capable of spreading to fill in bare spots in our lawns throughout the year. This is one of the many reasons we are fertilizing every other month, along with aerating annually.

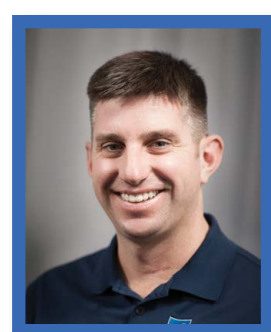
Turf type tall fescue is a warm-season perennial bunch-type grass best grown in full sun; it is more tolerant to heat and wear stress. Some varieties of tall fescue pictured below are capable of producing smaller, shorter daughter plants (stolons) that can spread to fill voids in our lawns.

The ideal solution is to enjoy the best of both worlds, and you can rely on your seasoned route manager for recommendations - a 50/50 blend of KBG and TTTF, a 75/25 blend or a 90/10 blend. Please feel free to consult with your team of professionals at Buckeye EcoCare for seeding ideas late this summer and early fall. We only have a six-week window for converting your lawn from the old to the new.

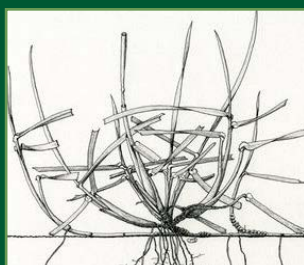
Tom Grunkemeyer
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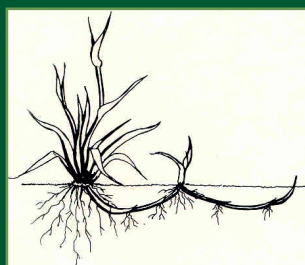
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Turf Type Tall Fescue grows via daughter plants called stolons.



Rhizomatic growth is a hallmark of Kentucky Bluegrass.

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Thank you to Dawn Taylor-Clements, our office manager of 30 years! Dawn has provided extraordinary service to our clients and our company since July of 1991. We appreciate you!

