



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984

"If you build it, he will come."

Over the past 30 years, this (often misquoted) line from the movie "Field of Dreams" has become a popular catchphrase. While the saying can be applied to many different situations, the overall meaning remains the same: Blind faith and effort will eventually have its reward.

In the movie, the main character was asked to risk his entire livelihood by building a baseball field on his farm. The eventual payoff was to be reunited with his long-deceased father, while the ghosts of baseball past play an ongoing pickup game that magically draws thousands of paying customers.

Fortunately, most homeowners are not asked to make such an outlandish leap of faith when tending to their lawns. Still, many efforts to create a gorgeous lawn are not met with immediate results. In this issue, we talk about how aeration and overseeding in the fall can help you build your very own field of dreams to be enjoyed next spring and for years to come.

After a strenuous workout, it's always nice to be able to sit back, relax, and recuperate. This same sense of relief also applies to your lawn after a hot and stressful summer. While proper attention can keep them green even during extreme heat, cool-season lawns of bluegrass or fescue prefer mild weather. Fall offers them a chance to rebuild and recover from the summer heat. Aeration and overseeding with the latest and greatest seed blends are steps you can take to help your lawn bounce back as you strengthen it for the following spring and years to come.



The process of aeration creates room for turf to expand its root system while loosening soil that may have become compacted. An aerator removes thousands of tiny plugs of dirt in your lawn's surface. This creates space beneath your lawn's surface for air and nutrients to easily reach your lawn's roots. This also provides space for root development and expansion at a time when turf plants are transitioning from top growth to root production.

Along with aeration, fall is also an ideal time to overseed your lawn with an application of grass seed. Autumn allows new seeds to germinate and establish themselves during friendly conditions. This timing gives turf plants a chance to set down roots before going dormant for the winter. Spreading seed on an established lawn helps thicken your turf while edging out invasive weeds. This process of overseeding is especially effective on a lawn that has been opened up by aeration. A perforated surface maximizes the amount of seed-to-soil contact, which encourages efficient germination.

Lawns love the fall. During this season, turf is able to repair summer stress while fortifying its roots for the winter to come and the spring to follow. You can take advantage of this by aerating and overseeding. Rather than quick fixes, these two lawn care measures help develop and strengthen your lawn so that it's resilient and healthy year after year.

ARMYWORM ALERT

Armyworms are destructive lawn pests that get their name because they travel in small armies and consume just about every green blade of grass in their path. By the time they reach the caterpillar stage, armyworms are eating your grass voraciously before they go through metamorphosis to become moths.



While armyworms are historically a southern problem, this season they have made their way north. Recent weather patterns, including storms that move from south to north, have transported these pests to our region.

The first signs of armyworms are brown patches that seem to grow bigger rapidly in your lawn. Armyworms can devour your grass down to the ground. The cool-season grasses we have in Ohio are particularly susceptible to armyworm damage.

Fortunately, armyworm treatments from Buckeye are effective at getting your lawn back on the right track. If you suspect armyworms, let us know, and we will conduct a free inspection and treat as needed. Give us a call if these invaders have paid your lawn a visit this fall!

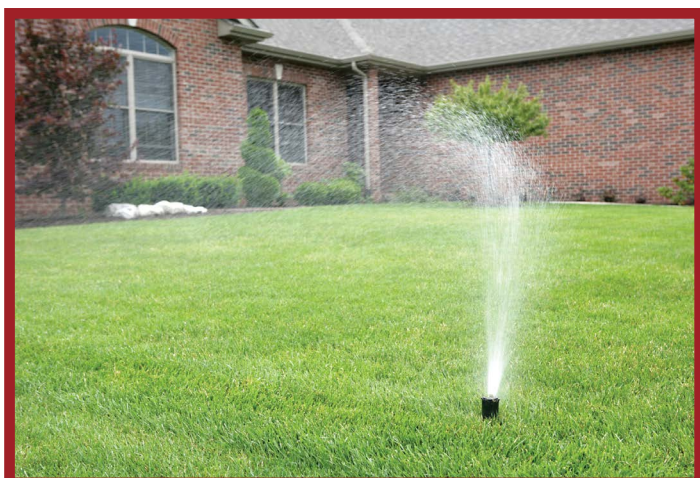
KEEP ON WATERING

In the scorching heat of August, watering your lawn is an obvious need. As fall arrives with milder temperatures, irrigation may not seem quite as necessary. Make no mistake, however. Your lawn still needs water, even in pleasant autumn weather.

While temperatures tend to start cooling off in September and October, this is a time when rainfall tends to drop off as well. Your lawn may not be dealing with baking heat, but it still needs regular irrigation. As in the summer, this irrigation schedule can be adjusted, based on recent rainfall. Turf needs about one inch of water per week, from you or Mother Nature, and your friends at Buckeye EcoCare would be happy to provide a rain gauge upon request.

In addition to tricking you into putting the sprinklers away, cooler fall temperatures make timely watering crucial. Reduced sunlight and heat make extended periods of wet turf a possibility, which can set the stage for a variety of turf diseases. Watering early in the day allows your lawn enough time to absorb moisture and gives excess water a chance to evaporate. Never let the sun set on a wet lawn!

Fall is your lawn's favorite season. Turf gets a chance to bounce back from a hot, dry summer as it spreads its roots. To do this well, your lawn still needs consistent irrigation.



TURFGRASS - MOTHER NATURE'S NATURAL CARPETING

Over the past 40 to 50 years, we have become accustomed to having green, weed-free lawns that are aesthetically pleasing and make our landscapes complete. There are several environmental benefits that are often overlooked, and the economic advantages are outstanding.

- Natural turf covers 90% of all professional athletic fields, 95% of home landscapes and nearly 100% of all park grounds in our country. The cooling effect of native grasses alone helps reduce the temperature of earth's atmosphere by two to three degrees annually. If global warming is man-made, we can do our part to help combat it just by maintaining the lawns in our little corner of the world.
- Turfgrass plays an important role in soil erosion, water runoff and dust control. The fibrous root systems of all turfgrass species form an excellent "netting" system that stabilizes soil on both flat and sloping lawns. Since turf is a perennial plant and 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.
- All green plants sequester carbon dioxide, or CO₂. Lawns and landscapes remove the CO₂ from the atmosphere, place the carbon into the soil and release the oxygen back into the air. This is one of the strongest and most effective filtration systems known to man, and it is totally free. A practical example of sequestration is that one soccer field can offset the CO₂ produced by a single automobile driven 3,000 miles.

Now for the bonus - according to the National Association of Realtors, a well-maintained lawn and landscape can add as much as 10 to 15% to the value of your home. With real estate prices so inflated these days, it makes sense to keep our lawns and landscapes in good shape. Native grasses covered this earth thousands of years ago when buffalos were grazing the fields of our great nation, and it is our responsibility to make sure we pass this heritage on to the next generation.

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Recent comments from a satisfied customer:

"I just have to tell you how thrilled I am with your company. My lawn guy is so professional, concerned that he does a good job and is very clean. I don't have to watch him the whole time he is here like I did with a previous company. Thank you."

~ Carol B.