



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984

Summer fades in the rearview mirror, and the shorter days of fall are upon us. The transition to autumn means back to school, back to routine, and the feeling that another summer has gotten past us can leave us a bit melancholy. It's partially just the feeling of time passing, but it's also easy to get down about the plans we had that didn't get accomplished. However, in our line of work, fall is one of the best times of the year for several reasons.

Summer is great in a lot of ways, but it can be pretty rough on your lawn and landscape. We all know that hot and dry summers can wreak havoc on turf, flowers and ornamentals, but hot, WET summers can bring their own problems in the form of weeds and fungal diseases. Fall brings cooler weather and continued sunshine, and with it comes an opportunity for your landscape to regroup before winter arrives. There is still time to give your property a boost this fall, and if you have any questions about the ideas in this issue of the newsletter, please let us know.

As we wind down the season, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our friends and clients who we've had the chance to work with this year. We really do appreciate the opportunity, and we look forward to working with you again next year.

FALL RENEWAL FOR YOUR LAWN

While summer may be the time of year we enjoy our lawns the most, many lawns do not like the summer season. A dry, hot summer can take a toll in terms of drought, but wet summers can bring their own set of problems. Dry heat depletes turf of nutrients and moisture, while hot, wet weather sets the stage for rampant weed growth as well as turf disease. By the time fall rolls around, your lawn is ready to reset and can use all of the help it can get. Seasonal weather patterns along with a surprise armyworm invasion make late fall an important time to fertilize your lawn.



SEASONAL SWINGS

Spring usually involves a rapidly growing lawn. Early in the season, it seems like you can almost see the grass grow before your very eyes. Once the scorching summer arrives, turf growth dramatically slows down as your lawn lays low and sometimes struggles to remain viable. When fall arrives, turf resumes growth, especially below ground.

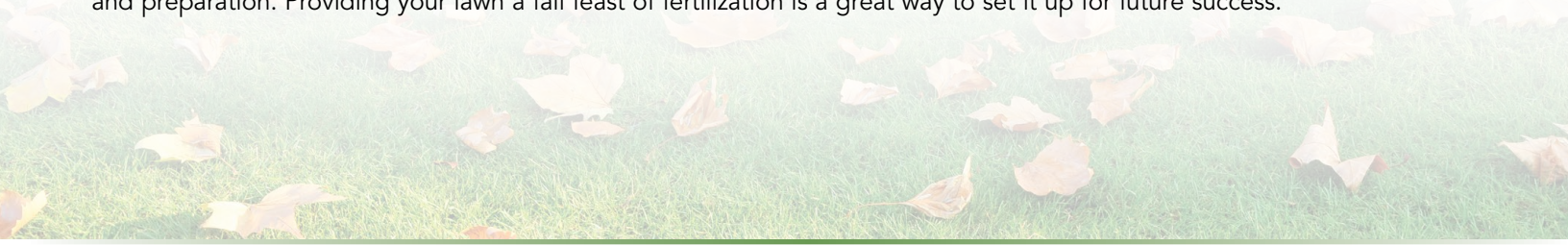
As the days grow shorter and the temperature cools, turf expands its roots while slowing down its top growth. Extensive root systems help prepare turf for winter dormancy by increasing its ability to collect and store valuable nutrients. A lawn that develops robust roots in the fall is quick to green up in the spring.

TIME TO FEAST

Have you ever seen squirrels scurry around collecting acorns this time of year? They know winter is coming and collect food in

preparation. Unlike animals, a lawn needs its winter stockpile delivered. A fall fertilization treatment helps your lawn take full advantage of this unique time of year by giving it a healthy meal when it's most needed.

When caring for your lawn, timing is incredibly important. Fall is a favorable season that your lawn uses for both recovery and preparation. Providing your lawn a fall feast of fertilization is a great way to set it up for future success.



LEAF DISPOSAL OPTIONS

For many homeowners, raking leaves can be one of the more enjoyable types of yard work. Making huge leaf piles to jump into can be especially fun for kids. At the end of the day, however, the leaves need to go somewhere. Here are a few ideas of what you can do with the leaves you clear from your lawn:

To the Woods: If you're fortunate enough to have woods behind your home, the easiest leaf disposal option is to rake leaves onto a tarp and spread them beyond the tree line in the woods.

Bag 'em Up: Leaf bags can hold a large amount of leaves and can be collected with the trash. Some municipalities have regulations regarding yard waste pickup, so be sure to check your community guidelines.

Shred & Spread: If you have a mulching mower, you may be able use it to pulverize and spread fallen leaves over your lawn. This is especially the case if your leaf coverage is on the lighter side.

Compost with the Most: If you already compost organic waste, dry leaves can be added to that mix.



**TIDY UP
YOUR LAWN**

Fall cleanups not only improve your property's appearance, they also set your lawn and landscape up for spring success. Removing leaves is the most obvious part of fall lawn maintenance. If left on the ground, fallen leaves can smother your turf by blocking access to air and sunshine. Leaves also collect in plant beds, where they provide a hospitable environment for a variety of pests and disease. Random debris such as fallen branches and expired perennial plants should also be removed so that plant beds are prepared to accommodate new growth next season.

A complete fall cleanup will have your lawn looking great over the winter months. More practically speaking, a clean fall landscape simplifies eventual spring chores by clearing the way for new growth or plantings. It's easy for fall to get away from you. One day, you're tossing a football in crisp sunshine, and the next thing you know, the dwindling daylight hours are filled with grey skies and cold wind. Before you retire indoors for the winter, make sure your lawn gets the thorough once-over it needs.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 will go down as one of the best educational challenges/opportunities our team has ever experienced. We started out this spring with a very normal growing season and continued through the summer with no real insect or disease surprises. Our staff kept all of our treatments on schedule, right up until the first armyworm invasion we have experienced in 37 years of servicing lawns. The last two weeks of August sent our crews into action like never before. Our office staff worked Labor Day weekend, answering voice mails on Sunday and Monday of the holiday weekend just to make sure we could react to your requests in a timely fashion.

What do we do moving forward in order to react or respond to the next invasion? Our friends at Ohio State University have installed adult armyworm moth traps throughout the state to better monitor activity in the future. If storms from the Gulf States are going to deliver any more summer surprises in future years, we will know about those infestations ahead of time. Another option is our BSI program, which includes a season-long insect control product. This insecticide treatment is different than our grub control program, which only targets sub-surface insects like Japanese beetles and masked chafer grubs. You may contact us anytime about starting our BSI treatment.

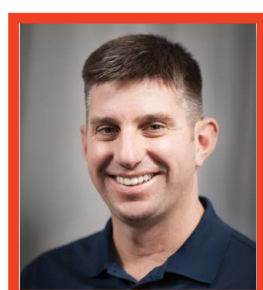
2021 was a great year, and again we thank you for your continued loyalty, patience and understanding. Buckeye EcoCare first and foremost is a service organization. We strive to get better every year to make the lawn and landscape around your home greener and stronger. As always, your route manager will contact you this winter, and your prepay opportunity will be mailed to you in early 2022.

Be safe, stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing you next season.

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



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**



Like Us On
facebook

Recent comments from a satisfied customer:

"Just wanted to thank everyone at Buckeye EcoCare for your help with the new craziness, armyworms. Thank you to the office staff who fielded so many calls. Thank you to the lawn technicians. They already had a full load of normal seasonal applications...then to add the extra time on conversations and applications for armyworms. You ALL were great! Once again, thank you!"

~ Susan

