



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



SUMMERTIME, AND THE LIVING IS EASY

Summer is a great time of year for lots of reasons. Warm weather, sunshine, vacations, parties, cookouts - you name it, summertime is the season of outdoor memories.

Your lawn and landscape love the summer, too. Warmth, sunshine, rain - these are the ingredients that lead to a lush and vibrant landscape. Like anything, though, you can get too much of a good thing. Living plants love the sun, but too much hot weather can be rough on them, and keeping them hydrated becomes very important. On the other hand, lots of rain and hot temperatures can lead to fungus diseases, especially in your lawn. We will also talk about armyworms in this issue.

The middle of summer is a great time to enjoy your lawn and landscape, and we are happy to play a part in making your outdoors enjoyable. Please contact us if there is anything we can do to make your landscape a little more enjoyable this summer.

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. The ideal feeding time for grubs in southern Ohio is from late August to the end of September.

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!



DEADHEADING FOR BLOOMS

Pruning is an important part of tree and shrub care. "Deadheading" is a type of pruning for your flowers that can extend their flowering season. By removing dead or dying blooms, you can trick your flowers into producing more blooms.

When blooms begin to fade, plants go into seed-production mode. While this is a necessary part of the plant life cycle, it's not the spectacular floral display that you want. By removing wilting or dead blooms, you're telling the plant that it needs more of them, which results in new bursts of floral growth. If this seems unnatural, don't worry. The seeds will eventually be produced no matter what; you're just prolonging the display.

While some flowers look best when deadheaded with hand clippers, much of the time you can simply pinch the old blooms off with your hand. Petunias, begonias, and marigolds are just a few popular flowers that benefit from regular deadheading. While very beneficial, this process isn't very intensive or time-consuming. While you're watering or weeding, just yank off a few wilted buds here and there and keep your blooms going strong into the summer!



FIGHT THE BITE THIS SUMMER



Nothing kills the mood of a gorgeous summer evening like the biting of mosquitoes. Once these pests show up, it's only a matter of minutes before you, your family, and your guests retreat indoors. While professional mosquito treatments can help remedy the problem, there are steps you can take to discourage mosquitoes from the start.

The key to mosquito prevention is making your property an inhospitable breeding ground. Mosquitoes need two things to thrive: warm weather and wet conditions. When summer hits, swampy turf areas and any instances of standing water can yield mosquitoes overnight. While you can't control the weather, you can eliminate opportunities for water to collect.

Flowerpots, kids' toys, and birdbaths are just a few places water can easily collect. A quick survey of your yard and a few minutes of rearranging can drastically reduce the potential for mosquitoes. If your lawn is collecting water and creating puddles, a more involved drainage solution may be in order.

Summer evenings provide some of the most enjoyable moments of the year. They're also when mosquitoes make themselves at home. Drying out your property limits mosquitoes' opportunities, providing a comfortable, itch-free summer.

Feel free to contact our pest control experts at 937-435-4727 for help with any biting insects you are experiencing this summer.

WILL ARMYWORMS RETURN?

After a nearly 30-year absence of the fall armyworm in southern Ohio, 2021 delivered quite a surprise to homeowners and lawn care professionals last summer. What will the summer of 2022 look like?

The easy answer is that we do not know yet, but our friends at Buckeye Yard & Garden onLine (BYGL.OSU.edu) will be monitoring the adult armyworm population weekly starting around July 1. Along with BYGL, our OSU entomologists will also be conferring with their southern colleagues to learn what they are experiencing in the states south of Ohio.

The good news is that the hard freezes we had back in January wiped out any surviving adults from the summer of 2021, but all it takes is one summer tropical storm to blow in another crop of adult armyworms in 2022.

We have no idea what this summer will bring, but trust that every one of the professionals on our staff is tuned into BYGL and our friends at OSU so we will be better prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws our way.

Tom Grunkemeyer,
President, Buckeye EcoCare



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

CONTACT US TODAY! CustomerService@BuckeyeEcoCare.com

South Dayton: 937-435-4727 • North Dayton: 937-236-4727
North Cincinnati: 513-641-4727 • Troy: 937-552-3800



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A RECENT COMMENT FROM A SATISFIED CUSTOMER:

"This is our second year with Buckeye EcoCare, and we have never been so happy with our lawn. Thank you for doing such an amazing job."

~ Linda B.