



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



Fall in Ohio is one of our favorite seasons - and your lawn's favorite as well! After a near-record dry September and October in 2022, our lawns and landscapes will go into winter very dehydrated. Not a healthy situation! The blue skies and gorgeous fall colors make it a very pleasant time of year in southern Ohio, provided we get some moisture in November.

As we move into cooler weather, you're likely to notice that the top growth of your lawn is slowing down. Make no mistake, your lawn is still very active, converting nutrients into energy stores and beefing up its root system before the winter. Even though our late-fall lawn treatments don't lead to immediate visible growth, the work we do at this time of year has a tremendous impact on your lawn's health.

We appreciate the opportunity to help keep your corner of our community green and growing this year. If you have any questions for us, don't hesitate to contact our office or visit our website for more information.

LATE-SEASON LAWN CARE

When the weather turns cold and the skies turn gray, it's very easy for homeowners to check out in terms of lawn care. It's important to remember that even in the fall, your turf is still active and really appreciates a little TLC to close out the year.

Don't forget that your lawn still needs water, even when it's cool outside. Be sure to monitor rainfall and continue to water your lawn if needed.

In terms of mowing, now is the time to lower your blades. In the summer, turf needs longer blade length to provide shade and generate nutrients. The cooler temperatures of autumn allow turf plants to tolerate being mowed to a shorter length. Reduced grass blade height is important going into winter because it prevents your lawn from becoming matted in the off-season. Matted turf holds moisture for an extended period of time and can become a breeding ground for a variety of fungal diseases that can take over during the winter. Lowering your blades for your last mowings of the year makes your dormant lawn inhospitable to harmful fungal disease.

As the outdoor season winds down, your turf benefits from continued attention up until the winter. Prepare your lawn for the dormant season by keeping it watered, weeded, and trimmed low. Your lawn will thank you come spring!



WHY RAKE THE LEAVES?

Raking leaves each fall is something we take for granted as an autumn chore. Sometimes, it can be satisfying family fun. Other times, it feels like a dreadful task. The difference tends to be how nice it happens to be outside. At some point, you or your kids have likely asked, "Why do we rake leaves anyway?"

We primarily rake leaves in order to care for the turfgrass itself. Even in dormancy, grass needs to be exposed to fresh air and sunlight. Dead, wet leaves act as a blanket that blocks sunlight and prevents your lawn from drying out. This can suffocate your turf and also provide a breeding ground for a variety of fungal diseases. It can be a real problem when spring arrives and your turf is trying to wake up from its winter sleep. A barrier of dead, wet leaves can cause a major disruption to your lawn's yearly life cycle.

In addition to harming your turf's overall health, dead, wet leaves are just generally nasty. Over the winter and early spring, leaves absorb moisture and begin to decompose. As this process continues, leaves become slimy, stinky and gross. Not exactly the best way to greet the new year.

Raking leaves is as autumn as pumpkin pie. There's a reason for this. In addition to the unique joy of jumping into a pile of leaves, leaf removal is crucial to the well-being of your turf and the appearance of your landscape.



BULBS: BURIED TREASURES

A lot of modern lifestyle technology is focused on the automation of various tasks. In the realm of your lawn and landscape, perennial bulbs automatically deliver gorgeous seasonal blooms.

Perennials such as hyacinths and daffodils emerge from bulbs, which are defined as any plant that stores its complete life cycle in an underground structure. Practically speaking, bulbs often resemble onions. They remain dormant throughout the winter and then bloom in the spring. While many come back each year, some are not so likely to return. Bulbs that have more annual tendencies can be planted in the fall. They should be buried at a depth about three times as deep as the height of the bulb itself. You can place these either in exact rows (one bulb per hole) or in more organic groups (several bulbs in a larger hole). You can be as creative as you would like by creating patterns with unique placement and color selection.

Many bulbs are perennial and will come back again and again. Over time, the bulbs themselves expand underground, resulting in more and more spring blooms. When an area of flowers becomes overcrowded, bulbs can be dug up, divided, and planted in a new location. Over time, bulbs prove to be the gift that keeps on giving!



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back, 2022 was certainly a year like no other. Compared to 2020 with COVID-19 and 2021 with armyworms, our route managers were not faced with many challenges until Mother Nature decided to shut her water spigot off shortly after Labor Day. Mature native trees and turfgrass can withstand moderate drought conditions, but any plants less than two years old should be watered before going into winter. Looking on the bright side of this dry fall, many folks have only had to mow their lawns once or twice since early September. This allows for plenty of time to water landscape plantings before winter arrives. After 38 years of dealing with Mother Nature and her weather swings, our Buckeye EcoCare team is used to a few curve balls every now and then.

2022 was another successful year for Buckeye EcoCare, and we'd like to thank you for your continued support. Buckeye EcoCare is first and foremost a service organization - and without customer loyalty and our great team, we could not continue our 38-year tradition. As we look around the world and especially down in Florida, we are blessed that our only worry is a dry fall, which impacts our lawns and landscapes. We hope you take time to enjoy the beautiful landscape colors this fall, spend precious moments with family and friends over the holidays, and most of all - stay healthy this winter. We hope to see you next spring when the snow melts!

Tom Grunkemeyer,
President, Buckeye EcoCare

Mark Grunkemeyer,
Founder, Buckeye EcoCare



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare



Mark T. Grunkemeyer
Founder, 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



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®



Like Us On
facebook

A RECENT COMMENT FROM A SATISFIED CUSTOMER:

"I am a 96-year-old customer, trying to stay in my own home. It takes a lot of help to do this. Bryan Francis is one of those people who helps take care of my yard. He is so kind and respectful. He takes time to listen and that means so much to older people. He really cares about my yard and how it looks. I pay for service and with Bryan, that is what he gives. I am so glad I know Bryan."

- Nell O.