



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



TAMING CRABGRASS

Nature in its rawest form is a beautiful thing. Dense forests, expansive prairies, windswept deserts, and towering mountains can be intensely awe-inspiring.

However, nature with a human touch is beautiful in its own right. Our lawns give us a chance to harness natural beauty while adding our own unique signature. Without vigilant care, however, nature will reclaim our yards – leaving them unkempt rather than majestic.

Crabgrass is an intrusive weed that seeks to establish itself throughout your lawn at the expense of your turfgrass. Although technically a grass, crabgrass is far from the rich, soft carpet you want your lawn to have. Originating in Africa, crabgrass (scientifically known as digitaria) has coarse, thick blades that grow in clumps. The fact that this hearty plant thrives in hot, rugged conditions at one time made it a great food for livestock. Unfortunately, these once valuable traits now make crabgrass a ruthless adversary to your lawn.

Fighting such an enemy requires a multi-pronged approach. Herbicides play a big part in stopping crabgrass and other weeds. A pre-emergent treatment can halt advancing crabgrass before it has sprouted by forming a barrier that covers the surface of your entire lawn. Post-emergent herbicide can be used as a spot treatment once weeds are actually present. One challenging aspect of crabgrass is that your lawn may be under siege long before you see any physical crabgrass growth. Before the summer heat spurs on visible crabgrass growth, millions of seeds lie in wait. So don't hesitate to explore pre-emergent options while the weather is still cool. What you cannot see is just as damaging as what you can.

While chemical treatments help, the best defense in fighting crabgrass and other weeds is a good offense. Weeds are locked in competition with your turf, so the healthier your lawn, the harder it is for weeds to thrive. Keeping your grass fed with fertilizer, mowing at an appropriate height, and watering your lawn on a regular schedule will bolster your turf's health and keep weeds at bay.

Weeds are one of the biggest obstacles your lawn and landscaping will face. With the right strategy in place, you can enjoy nature's beauty while keeping its wilder elements in check.



Besides being incredibly hearty, crabgrass is programmed to spread in rampant fashion. A single crabgrass plant can produce 150,000 seeds! Often, these seeds will germinate the following spring in the same area of the parent plant.

IS YOUR LAWN DROWNING?



Spring showers are responsible for the vibrant explosion of plant life that makes this time of the year unique. At times, these showers can give us more rain than we asked for, and more than our lawns know what to do with. When it collects, excess rainwater can turn your lawn into a muddy swamp. While all plants need water, too much water can rot root systems and eventually kill off valuable pieces of your landscaping. Standing water is also an ideal breeding ground for troublesome mosquitoes. When water pools close to your house's foundation, there can be seepage into your home. Improper drainage is not just unsightly – it can be very damaging to your property.

There are a variety of ways to maximize your yard's drainage. Buried drainage pipes and/or gravel-filled trenches are the best ways to remove large amounts of water. These options, however, are also the most disruptive and costly.

Another way to address drainage issues is with your landscaping itself. Certain plants thrive in wet areas, and building a water garden is a great way to incorporate these plants (such as irises and elephant ears) into your landscape. Willows and plane trees love water and can absorb huge amounts out of the ground. Replacing swampy areas with rocks, gravel, and water-loving plants can turn a trouble spot into an attractive and unique area of your yard. An ornamental pond can be a gathering pool for runoff while acting as a central feature that can house cattails, lily pads, and even fish.

Adequate drainage is not a very exciting aspect of landscaping, but it only takes a few downpours to realize its necessity. Fortunately, there are multiple ways that you can make sure your lawn handles water as best as possible. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the best course of action – feel free to consult a professional.

THUNDER AND NITROGEN

If your lawn and landscape plants seem greener after a thunderstorm, it isn't just your imagination. Each time lightning strikes, nitrogen in the atmosphere combines with either hydrogen or oxygen to form ammonium and nitrate (two different forms of nitrogen). This nitrogen is then washed to the ground in rainfall, where plants absorb it from the soil and use it for growth. Since nitrogen is a significant component of chlorophyll, which causes green pigmentation in plants, the plants grow greener after the storm.

It's estimated that about 250,000 tons of nitrogen are produced by roughly 1,800 thunderstorms every day!



HOW DO YOU SPELL FRUSTRATION? M-O-L-E

Moles are notorious for the damage they do to lawns as they tunnel around looking for earthworms, beetles, ants and other insects to eat. Moving at a rate of 12 to 15 feet per hour, they can quickly wreak havoc on your turf by pushing mounds of soil up to the surface.

At Buckeye EcoCare, our experts use baits to control moles. We find tunnels and place baits every five to ten feet. The baits contain an attractant that lasts 11 to 14 days. Nearly 80% of the time, moles are controlled with the first treatment, although sometimes it may take two to three attempts.

Early spring is generally the best time for trapping moles, since pregnant females can be eliminated at this time – lessening the likelihood of an entire family of moles setting up residence in your yard. If you see mole mounds in your turf, please call us for a free estimate.

39 YEARS LATER

Thirty-nine years ago on March 1, my father Mark founded what was then Buckeye Custom Lawn Care. At the time, Mark was working for a lawn care company that would not allow him the time to chat with customers and spend time just looking over their properties. When I was three years old, he and my mother Peggy decided that it was time to venture out on their own.

Today, Buckeye EcoCare employs over 70 of the best team members in the lawn care industry – professionals who are given the resources and time to deliver quality service at a fair price. Can we brag about every customer being satisfied 100% of the time? Absolutely not. Can we brag about a 90% renewal rate every year, with over 30% of our clients prepaid? Yes, we can. Hometown, home-grown service organizations can be successful if they stick to what Mark preached over thirty-nine years ago. Take your time on each job, spend time with clients, and stay on top of the latest and greatest technologies.

This year, I begin my 17th year with Buckeye EcoCare, and today, I find myself looking for even more opportunities while staying true to Mark's original thoughts. Quality service at a fair price is not rocket science, and every day, I am reminded by a quote left in Mark's old office – "Sometimes You Win, Sometimes You Learn."

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



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®



Like Us On
facebook

A RECENT COMMENT FROM A SATISFIED CUSTOMER:

"A big shout-out to our lawn technician for being so kind to bring our trash can up from the curb this morning. Such a kind gesture that certainly didn't go unnoticed. This man is always kind and professional! Please pass this message along. I thanked him as well. I just wanted to let the company know they have a great employee."

- Kathy B. in Lebanon