



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



HERBICIDES – THE KINDS WE USE AND WHY

There are many types of weed and grass controls used in a good lawn and landscape maintenance program. Each has its purpose and proper timing.

For turf weeds like crabgrass, foxtail and several others which are annuals, we like to stop them before they sprout in the spring. Pre-emergents are used for this to keep them from even sprouting.

Broadleaf weeds like dandelions, ground ivy, plantain and spurge are usually controlled with post-emergent herbicides when they are actively growing.

In the lawn and landscape, nutsedge or nutgrass can be an aggravating problem that neither of the types mentioned above are able to control. There are, however, some specific herbicides that do control this light yellow-green and fast-growing weed.

As always, you can count on the professionals at Buckeye EcoCare to tackle any summer weed problems that may pop up in your lawn. You can reach us by phone during our normal business hours or send us an e-mail anytime!

E-mail: CustomerService@BuckeyeEcoCare.com

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



GETTING THE BEST OF BROADLEAF WEEDS

Just one dandelion seed head can hold over 200 seeds, which are capable of traveling very long distances by wind, water, on animals and on the bottoms of our shoes. New weed seeds are constantly finding their way into the soil on your property, and they can remain in the soil for years until they get enough sun and water to germinate.

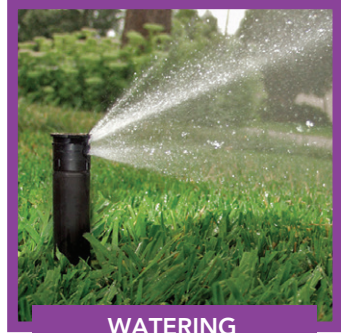
GOOD LAWN CARE PRACTICES CROWD OUT WEEDS

Proper lawn maintenance encourages thicker, healthier grass, and that's the best way to prevent broadleaf weeds. The denser your lawn, the less room these weeds will have to grow. Three keys to crowding out broadleaf weeds are:

- Beginning May 15, your mower height should be raised to 3.5". This keeps the soil shaded to discourage germination of weed seeds.
- Making sure your lawn gets from 1" to 1½" of water per week from rainfall or sprinkling.
- Fertilizing regularly to expand your lawn's root system for more vigorous growth.



MOWING



WATERING



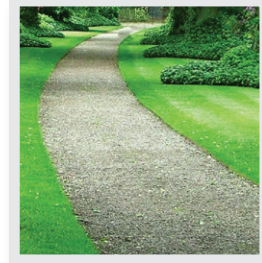
FERTILIZING

POST-EMERGENT HERBICIDES CAN HELP, TOO

Whenever broadleaf weeds pop up, they can be spot-treated with a post-emergent herbicide. Keep in mind that it can take up to three weeks for treated weeds to die off, and repeat applications may be necessary if new weeds appear throughout the season. Also, if your lawn has been seeded, post-emergent herbicides shouldn't be used until the new grass has been mowed at least three times.

Yes, broadleaf weeds are a nuisance, but they can be managed. With the right lawn care practices, post-emergent herbicides and a little patience, they won't have nearly as much of an impact on your lawn.

TAKING CONTROL OF LAWN TRAFFIC



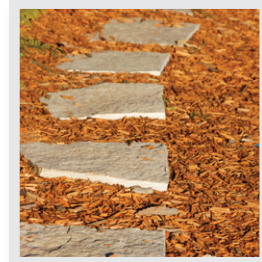
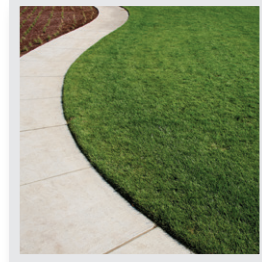
When lawns are subjected to ongoing foot traffic, leaves, stems and crowns can be crushed from continued, direct pressure on grass plants. Soil compaction is also common in these situations, making it harder for roots to expand and limiting the flow of air, water and nutrients to the root zone. If foot traffic is excessive (such as when a path between two points in a yard is constantly used), thinning of turf and death of grass plants are inevitable.

WALKWAYS TO THE RESCUE

The last thing you want in your lawn is an ugly trail of bare soil where healthy grass used to be. In places where extra foot traffic is unavoidable, walkways can relieve pressure on your lawn while enhancing both the looks and functionality of your property.

With gentle curves and subtle changes in direction, walkways can easily guide traffic and help to create a more attractive and interesting setting. Ornamental plants, hedges and shrubs can be installed alongside walkways for added visual appeal and to help tie them into the existing landscape. Wherever possible, wider walkways (48" to 60" wide) work best since they can accommodate two people walking side by side.

Remember, no turf can take continuous trampling and still remain healthy. If you need to control foot traffic on your property, walkways are a practical solution.



CONTAINER GARDENING: WHAT TO GROW?

Thinking about starting a container garden but not sure about what to plant? From vegetables to fruit to flowers, there are many choices available. Consider some of the following, all of which are well-suited to growing in containers.

VEGETABLES/FRUIT



CUCUMBERS

Require a big container and lots of water.



EGGPLANTS

Grow best when fertilized regularly.



TOMATOES

Require at least 6 to 8 hours of sun to bring out their best flavors.

FLOWERS



BEGONIAS

Great for hanging baskets.



PETUNIAS

A classic summer favorite.



TIGER FLOWERS

Plant in April for late-summer blooms.



DAYLILIES

Easily divided to create new plants.

COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

Last year, we touched on how communication has evolved over the nearly 40 years of Buckeye EcoCare's existence. Analog phones and speaking directly with clients in 1984 has evolved into texts, e-mails, website updates, and Google searches for all of today's latest and greatest lawn care information. Sad but true...some companies have "lost that lovin' feeling" of communicating with their customers in person at least once a year. Every winter, we make a concerted effort to call each client just to thank them. Some clients prefer digital information over the personal approach we try to instill in all of our team members. Many of our competitors are able to treat lawns quicker than our crews, but our management team is comfortable with the strategy of quality over quantity.

Cooperation has also become easier due to the better communication tools we have developed – one great example is this newsletter. Twenty-five years ago, we enclosed a "measure reminder" in our invoice bags to help customers raise mowing height. Today, we have newsletter reminders, computer-generated notes and personal communications in place to ensure complete cooperation.

Do we have perfect communication tools in place to ensure client satisfaction? Probably not. Are we constantly making strides to help clients achieve quality lawns and landscapes? We hope so. You should always feel free to pick up the phone and communicate the old-fashioned way. We will do our best to respond to your requests within 48 business hours – the same policy we've had in place since 1984.

Mark Grunkemeyer
Founder, Buckeye EcoCare



Mark T. Grunkemeyer
Founder, Buckeye EcoCare



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JOIN THE BUCKEYE ECOCARE TEAM!

Buckeye EcoCare is now interviewing qualified individuals for immediate openings in our Residential and Commercial Lawn Care and Landscape divisions. Call 937-435-4727 ext. 111 to speak with Matt Bly or ext. 112 for Mike Davis. Call today and join Team Buckeye!