



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



WHAT EXACTLY IS IN THAT FERTILIZER?

Most fertilizers contain numerous compounds that are all important to healthy plant growth, but what do they do?

The largest parts of fertilizer are normally nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the proportions of which are indicated by the N-P-K numbers on each package.

Plants absorb large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, and these compounds need to be replenished into the soil regularly.

Nitrogen (N) – helps with rapid growth, improves the green color. It is an essential part of all living cells.

Phosphorus (P) – necessary for root growth and aids in photosynthesis. Phosphorus is generally needed when we are establishing new seed or sod.

Potassium (K) – helps build proteins and fruit growth while reducing disease.

Remember, plants need just the right amount of these compounds for healthy growth – not too much and not too little. Think of N, P and K like you think of fruit, vegetables and carbohydrates for our bodies. Just the right mix keeps you strong and healthy all year long.

Be sure to call us with any questions!

Tom Grunkemeyer,
President, Buckeye EcoCare



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

THE GRASS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE!

Now that your lawn's growing season is in full swing, it's a good time to give your turf an extra boost of food. Early summer is your lawn's "lunchtime," and as part of a season-long feeding plan, an application of fertilizer now will ensure a healthy turf heading into the heat and stress of summer.

Maintaining a scheduled fertilization plan will give you more than just greener grass. Stronger root systems and thicker, more lush top growth are all promoted through regular feeding, which will make your lawn less susceptible to all kinds of pests and seasonal stress.

Your lawn is hungry this time of year, but so are summer weeds like oxalis and spurge. To keep these weeds from getting a free meal, it is recommended that early summer treatments include a spot treatment for weeds along with an inspection by a trained professional from Buckeye EcoCare.

GRUBS: ANOTHER ANNUAL PEST

Grubs – the larval form of a variety of beetle species – hatch underground and come out hungry. They eat the roots of grass, keeping themselves and the damage they cause largely out of sight. A large infestation can destroy a lawn, so it is important to check early so that proper measures can be taken.

The first visible sign of grub damage is usually irregular brown patches throughout the lawn. Take a cue from the neighborhood animals, too. If birds, raccoons or skunks are digging around the yard, they are possibly eating grubs they find underneath. If the sod around damaged areas can be easily pulled up and rolled like a rug, then the grubs are the culprits. If you see more than six grubs per square foot, treatment is necessary.

Systemic insecticides are a great option to control a grub infestation. Applied to the lawn and absorbed by the roots, insecticides kill the grubs as they eat treated roots. An application now will protect your lawn for the rest of the growing season. Late August is when we start seeing grub damage in Southern Ohio.

If you've seen grub damage in your lawn in the past, now is the time to get ahead of the problem this year. If left untreated, these pests can destroy your lawn before the season's end! So let's keep your lawn healthy and beautiful this summer.



TO CUT OR NOT TO CUT? WHEN TO PRUNE

Thinning, cutting, heading, shearing...the terms may sound a little scary. Pruning is a regular, important part of keeping your plants healthy and looking their best year-round.

Pruning removes diseased and damaged plant parts, helps air circulate and sunlight get in, and stops structural problems in future plant growth. Flowering plants, in particular, produce more flowers and fruit when pruned at the right time.

As a general rule, flowering plants that bloom in early spring on old wood (or growth from the previous season) should be pruned a week or two after flowers drop. Those that bloom in late summer on stem growth from the current growing season should not be pruned until they are dormant.

A cut in the right direction now can mean better plant performance and appearance. For the best results, combine pruning with healthy fertilization. Then sit back and watch how nature appreciates the help you give.

Brian Huber,
Certified Arborist

START PLANNING NOW FOR LAWN REPAIRS

During this time of year, lawns can look too thin or have bare spots. These appear as a result of damage from hot summer weather, insects, disease or even extra foot traffic. If your turf could use some help, you may want to consider a "lawn makeover," and right now is a great time to start planning for the process.

CORE AERATION – With this procedure, a machine known as a core aerator removes plugs of thatch and soil from your lawn. This promotes decomposition of the thatch layer and makes it easier for air, water and fertilizer to reach the root system. The result is a stronger root system and a greener, thicker lawn.

CORE AERATION WITH OVERSEEDING – When seed is spread after aerating, it makes better contact with the soil for more successful germination.

SLICE SEEDING – Seed is deposited directly into the soil rather than spreading it out over the thatch layer (where it may not get a chance to sprout). This results in excellent germination rates and thicker growth.

SEED – For best results, we will help you choose the latest and greatest seed species for your lawn. The newer turf-type tall fescues are more heat and disease resistant for a lower-maintenance lawn moving forward.



MOSQUITOES BUGGING YOU ALREADY?

Nothing can ruin a backyard BBQ as easily as pesky mosquitoes. If these little bloodsuckers are taking over your outdoor space, there are solutions. Commercial mosquito control products and professional services have become more available in recent years. However, if you'd like to give a natural homemade remedy a chance, try making a couple of homemade mosquito traps. It's easier than you think!

- Cut the top portion off a 2-liter bottle, cutting where the bottle just starts to curve.
- Heat 1 cup of water and dissolve 4 tablespoons of brown sugar.
- Add cold water until the sugar water is just warm.
- Add a pinch of yeast to the mixture. This will ferment the sugar water, creating carbon dioxide, which will attract the mosquitoes.
- Pour the liquid into the bottom portion of the bottle. Place the top upside down inside the cylinder, pushing it as far down as you can without it touching the liquid.
- Wrap the bottle with dark construction paper and place in a shady spot outside.

You will need to replace the liquid every couple of weeks to keep the trap working. Hopefully, when you do, you'll be seeing a lot of dead mosquitoes. Give it a try!

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

"Just wanted to send a note to thank Buckeye EcoCare and my service technician, Ted, for taking such good care of our lawn for so many years. Buckeye EcoCare is by far the best lawn care company I've ever had, and I always recommend your company to anyone looking for lawn care."

Last year, I spoke with Ted about getting rid of wild clover in our yard. He was very informative and thoroughly explained what could be done. Today, it has all been eradicated, and I have not seen any other weeds in our yard."

We feel our yard always looks great with Buckeye EcoCare and the services performed by Ted. Thank you very much!"

- Jim S.