



**BUCKEYE  
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984



## BOXWOODS UNDER ATTACK

Boxwoods are dense, broadleaf evergreen shrubs that have been a staple of the American landscape for over 150 years. Their “evergreen” foliage brightens dreary winter landscapes and provides structure to both formal and informal gardens. Boxwoods are often shaped into tightly clipped hedges or geometric forms. The Biltmore Estate landscape has over 10,000 boxwoods bordering their formal gardens. This year in southern Ohio, our boxwoods were attacked on every front!

### HOW?

- A) Last December, there was a temperature swing of 80 degrees within a ten-day period that severely weakened many boxwood species that had not acclimated to the cold winter temperatures. This freeze damage was easily visible in the early spring as brown foliage contrasted against the healthy green leaves.
- B) Volutella Blight is a common disease of boxwoods in the area that generally infects weakened or damaged plants. The freeze damage in December allowed greater access for Volutella spores to enter the plants and continue the dieback through the season.
- C) Boxwood leafminer has been a growing problem as more boxwoods are planted in area landscapes. More boxwoods provide more places for the adults to lay eggs, allowing the leafminer population to increase. Boxwood leafminer can be easily controlled once the pest has been identified. Since adult leafminers can fly, annual treatments may be required to control leafminers migrating to your landscape from neighboring properties.

### NOW WHAT?

The photos shown were taken from a property in southwest Ohio that experienced injury ranging from no damage to 90% of the foliage destroyed. They are all the same boxwood species, the same soils, and undergo the exact same maintenance protocols. “Evergreen” means that the plants retain some leaves throughout the growing season. Older leaves will shed over time as new foliage develops in the spring. Some plants can have dead branches pruned back to green, healthy tissue to allow new growth to fill in the damaged areas, but it may take a year or two for new growth to fill in the voids. A decision will need to be made about plants with large, damaged areas. The voids left from pruning away the dead, brown growth may not be acceptable – plant removal/replacement may be the best recourse.

There are dozens of varieties of boxwoods available for inclusion in area landscapes, and each has advantages and disadvantages. Some have a dark green color, while others are a lighter green. Some varieties are more tolerant of cold temperatures than others. Some are better able to resist insects or disease infestation. Some have larger leaves or may grow to a larger size. There is not one variety that is perfect for every setting and will not be susceptible to some type of stress Mother Nature delivers from year to year. Hopefully, the quick and extreme drop in temperature we experienced last December is not a reoccurring event, and boxwoods will continue to be a valuable staple in our landscapes.



No Damage



10% Damage



90% Damage

## MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL SPACE

Planting a tree benefits both your property and the environment. Even if your space is limited, there are still great choices available.

Here are just a few ornamental trees that work well in smaller yards:

### CRABAPPLE

Grows to roughly 20' tall. Known for showy flowers and brightly colored fruit.



Crabapple

### EASTERN RED BUD

Reaches 30' in height, with red twigs and beautiful purplish-pink flowers in the spring.



Eastern Red Bud

Fall is the best time to start planning landscape improvements on your property. Local garden centers usually offer sales on landscape plants in October and November – just in time to get them planted before winter.

## SECURE THE PERIMETER THIS FALL!

When summer fades and temperatures fall, thus begins the annual retreat indoors. Humans are not the only ones who prefer warm and cozy shelter over the harsh elements of winter. In the coming months, many unwelcome insects and pests will make the exodus into your comfortable home through any opening they can find.

Stink bugs are common winter refugees and are fairly harmless – unless human inhabitants smash them. Others are not so cute or innocent. Millipedes and silverfish, for example, have far more legs than most homeowners are comfortable with. If your family's abode makes these guests especially comfortable, they may even want to start a family of their own – at which point they will have clearly worn out their welcome.

Along with some vigilance on your part (see box at right), an insecticide treatment around the perimeter of your house will keep bugs from making your home a winter destination. A perimeter pest treatment applied to your foundation, window wells, and door sills creates a barrier that repels incoming pests. A treatment like this is applied entirely to the outside perimeter of your home – no chemicals will come inside your house. Timing is crucial to sealing off your home before bugs arrive – so don't delay.



Any opening to the outside can be a doorway for insects trying to enter your home. Here are some steps you can take – along with a perimeter pest treatment – to make your home less inviting:

Seal any cracks in the foundation, the siding, or around windows.

Make sure that all vents – especially dryer vents close to the ground – are securely attached and working properly.

Inspect window screens and screen doors for rips.

Check your door thresholds for gaps. Improper spacing can leave plenty of room for bugs to enter.

When you bring plants indoors for the winter, check to see that you're not bringing any insects in along with them.



## A NATURAL AIR FILTER

All plants feed on carbon dioxide and produce clean oxygen, but did you know that certain plants have been found to also rid the air of common household toxins?

The NASA Clean Air Study has compiled a list of plants that filter out dangerous chemicals like benzene, formaldehyde, and ammonia. So, if you're thinking about adding a new houseplant to your favorite windowsill, keep these top varieties in mind!

- Spider Plant
- Devil's Ivy
- Bamboo Palm
- Snake Plant
- Elephant Ear



## SERVICE – IT'S ALWAYS IN SEASON!

Thirty-nine years ago, my father – our founder – created a vision for Buckeye EcoCare: “To Make Every Customer Service Experience Personal and Create Customers for Life.” I certainly hope our teams have delivered on that promise this year and will continue to deliver on Mark's vision.

As the season winds down, please feel free to hold us accountable to our mission. We know that you have many choices when it comes to selecting a lawn care service provider, which is why we strive to exceed your service expectations with every step we make.

At Buckeye EcoCare, we hope that if you see something in your lawn or landscape that does not appear normal, you simply contact us by phone or e-mail us at customerservice@buckeyeecocare.com. Our 48-hour service call policy is strictly monitored by our administrative team. Our goal is to make you so happy with the level of service we provide that you refer us to friends and family.

We are Buckeye EcoCare – your hometown lawn care company since 1984.

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

*“Louie Bowser and his crew did a topdress and seed job for parts of my lawn. They did a great job! Louie updated me as the project progressed, and it was very much appreciated. You folks did a great job – thank you very much!”*

- Ray W.