



# BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



## TOM'S TOP TEN REASONS to Welcome Fall Drought



10. Core aeration without overseeding can happen as late as mid-December to take advantage of having adequate soil moisture conditions.
9. Early leaf drop of some tree species will allow us to mulch and compost some of our leaves sooner than usual.
8. September is the perfect slice-seed month, and it's much easier to cut through dry thatch than wet thatch.
7. Plant roots looking for water develop deeper roots during drought conditions.
6. Turf diseases need constant moisture to stay active – no rain, no moisture, no disease activity!
5. Buckeye EcoCare aeration crews can assist the seed crews during the month of September.
4. Corn and soybeans will dry in the fields and save the farmers money at harvest time.
3. New broadleaf weeds need soil moisture to germinate – less moisture, fewer weeds!
2. We are all saving time by NOT mowing our lawns under drought stress.

And the Number 1 Reason to Welcome Fall Drought: Buckeye EcoCare founder Mark Grunkemeyer can walk his bike across the Great Miami River and not get his socks wet!

In early June, when we experienced our first heat and drought wave, we suggested best practices for maintaining your lawn and landscape during warm, dry weather conditions. Above, we have listed 10 reasons why lawn care professionals welcome late summer and early fall drought conditions. We would all prefer lush, green lawns all season long, but the reality is that Mother Nature has control of the water spigot unless you have an irrigation system.

As professionals, we also understand that early-season droughts disrupt our fruit trees, flowers and vegetables from performing at their best. These are Memorial Day worries; items in the list above are Labor Day challenges that are opportunities for the lawn care and tree & shrub professionals at Buckeye EcoCare. Every season, we look forward to Labor Day and the six weeks following to plant grass seed while the soil is still warm, and the baby grass can benefit from the fall rains. The days become shorter, the rains are more gentle, and the temperatures start to moderate once football season begins.

While professional gardeners enjoy spring planting of their favorite flowers and vegetables, lawn care operators look forward to fall planting of their grass seed and landscape plants in September and October. While we hate the way our lawns look right now, the silver lining is that they will all look great in the spring!



## FEED YOUR *Roots*

Your trees and shrubs are a growing investment that should increase in beauty and value with each passing season. However, landscape plants often fail to flourish and may even go into decline due to lack of proper nourishment. Proper feeding of your ornamentals offers many benefits, including improved flowering, increased resistance to disease, and increased ability to ward off insect attacks. Root feeding injects the proper plant foods directly into the root zone of the plants, which allows the fertilizer to be easily absorbed and quickly put to work.

Feeding helps compensate for poor soil or less-than-ideal planting locations. Over time, poorly located plants may gradually decline if not given proper care. Feeding your trees and shrubs at least once per season is good preventive maintenance. The right diet helps to prevent many types of stress that weaken plants. When your trees and shrubs are in top health and growing well, they're often strong enough to fight off many infectious diseases or insect attacks without suffering serious or permanent damage.

Balanced root feeding, scheduled on a regular basis, helps to improve and protect your growing landscape investment.

## IT'S LAWN AERATION *Season!*

Following a summer of intense heat, a lot of compaction from mowing and constant foot traffic, your lawn's soil may be in need of help this fall. Aeration can provide just the pick-me-up that your lawn needs!

All lawns, regardless of their condition, can benefit from some level of renovation every year or so. One of the best means of rejuvenating turf is professional aeration.

During aeration, a machine called a core aerator pulls plugs of soil and thatch up from the lawn to break up compacted soil and create more room for air, water and fertilizer to reach the roots. This results in expansion of the root system for thicker, healthier grass. Aeration also helps break up thatch, which can prevent water, fertilizer and insect controls from reaching the soil if it gets too thick.

Trust the professionals at Buckeye EcoCare to aerate your lawn this fall – the results will be well worth it!



# REFER A FRIEND

When you refer a friend, you will receive a 2-pound bag of grass seed delivered to your home this fall!

Contact us today!

## A GREAT *Fall Finish*

We always look forward to this time of year; the cool air and the changing colors are a great contrast to summer, and this time of year is a great refresher for your lawn and landscape. While summer is great, it can be unpredictable. Cooler, consistent autumn weather gives your landscape an opportunity to rest up and rejuvenate before winter.

However, the fun isn't over yet! Autumn is a popular time for enjoying your landscape, with plenty of time left for parties, cookouts and backyard bonfires. Those cooler temperatures make fall a great time to plant trees and shrubs as well, and now would be a good time to consider any additional plantings or landscape projects you have in mind. Get a jump on next spring by planting this fall!

Autumn also gives us an opportunity to look back on the growing season with gratitude for you, our clients and neighbors. We love the work we do, and we hope you enjoy the results, but none of it would be possible without you. We truly appreciate the opportunity to work with you this year, making your corner of our community a little greener.

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