



BUCKEYE ECOCARE®

Family Owned Since 1984



Why Does Turfgrass Matter?

When thinking of a home landscape, it's easy to take the turfgrass for granted. It's "the yard" or "the grass" that needs mowing and watering, but since it's literally underfoot, it is understandable that we overlook the importance of the lawn. On the contrary, the "lowly" turfgrass plant is a remarkable specimen of nature, giving us environmental and lifestyle benefits, in addition to the aesthetic benefit that a lush, green lawn provides.

AN OXYGEN AND CARBON MACHINE

The average home lawn is between 5,000 – 15,000 square feet. A 2,500 square foot patch of healthy turfgrass produces enough oxygen to provide for a family of four people, which means that on average, most American lawns are producing more oxygen than the average family requires.

At the same time, due to the nature of photosynthesis, your grass sequesters carbon dioxide as it produces oxygen. A healthy lawn is a massive carbon sink that helps to pull excess CO₂ out of the air and sequester it in the soil.



Healthy, vibrant turf produces oxygen at a remarkable pace. Even a small lawn can generate enough oxygen for a family of four.

RESILIENT EROSION CONTROL

If you've ever seen a patch of bare soil in a rainstorm, you know that soil inundated with water has a tendency to wash away. On the other hand, turfgrass can withstand tremendous amounts of rainfall and not just survive but keep your property whole, without the danger of erosion. Picture, for a moment, your entire property devoid of turfgrass. A single massive rain would not just make a huge mess, but you'd also literally lose some of your property down the drain!

Turfgrass is also one of the most resilient plants in the modern landscape. Think of another plant that can be trampled repeatedly, endure extreme temperatures in summer and winter, resist both drought and drowning, and still bounce back so readily.

It's easy to think of a green lawn as just a nice-looking part of the landscape – and lush lawns ARE beautiful. They are also remarkably resilient, standing up to challenges from nature and people alike, all while generating oxygen and eliminating carbon dioxide. We should all appreciate the benefits of a healthy lawn!

Ground Cover and Grasses for Difficult Areas

Nature is amazing. Trees, shrubs and flowers will often grow, even in inopportune locations. Other times, though, there are areas of our landscapes that simply won't grow grass, flowers, or the shrubs we have in mind. Instead of fighting nature, we suggest considering alternatives like ground cover and ornamental grasses for difficult areas in your landscape.



GROUND COVER AS A TURF ALTERNATIVE

Whether you want to tie portions of a landscape together or cover a steep slope that's hard to mow, ground cover has you covered! Ground cover grows low to the ground and spreads easily over large areas. It's also easy to maintain, making it a perfect alternative when you want to try something other than turf.

Available in many shapes, sizes, colors and textures, ground cover can generally be grouped into four types: flowering, drought-tolerant, shade-loving, and traffic-tolerant. Traffic resistance, shade and drought tolerance are often issues that lead us toward suggesting ground cover as an alternative.

Buckeye EcoCare can help you assess your trouble areas and recommend a ground cover that's sure to make a lovely addition to your landscape.

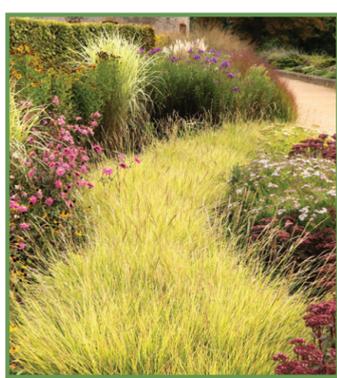
ADDING TEXTURE WITH ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Ornamental grasses vary in size, shape, color and texture. Mature plants can range in height from 6 inches to over 14 feet, while foliage colors include shades of green, yellow, blue, red, brown and variegated. Many ornamental grasses also change colors in the fall and winter, providing beautiful displays of straw yellow, orange, red or purple.

Ornamental grasses are tolerant of drought, wetness and fluctuating winter temperatures. They stand up to most diseases and insects as well, making them the ideal choice for gardeners with little time on their hands who want to add maximum visual impact to their landscapes. They also serve as wonderful filler plants for hiding fading foliage from bulbs and early bloomers.

Perhaps one of the most enticing things about ornamental grasses is their ability to grow well in problem areas.

Do you have areas of your landscape where nothing grows just right? Ask Buckeye EcoCare for help. We have probably seen a similar problem on other properties and would be happy to suggest a solution.



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.

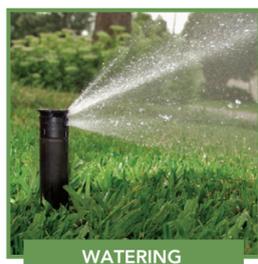
GOOD LAWN CARE PRACTICES CROWD OUT WEEDS

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.

Dog Days of Summer 2024?

Every year, June 21 represents the first day of summer and, for turfgrass managers, our first "dog day." June 21 also happens to be the longest day of the year.

Cool-season plants such as bluegrass and ryegrass begin to stress and turn brown when air temperatures are consistently above 70 degrees. When Mother Nature starts to turn off her water spigot, rainfall totals are less than one inch per week, and our plants start to experience heat stress.

WE SUGGEST A FEW STRATEGIES YOU CAN IMPLEMENT TO OFFSET THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER:



- Raise your cutting height to 3.5" and make sure your mower blades are sharp. Do NOT mow if your lawn is totally brown.
- Water wisely. Adjust your irrigation schedule to account for hot, dry weather. Water deep and frequently to a depth of 1". This type of water irrigation produces deep roots for your turf plants.
- In the fall, overseed with drought-tolerant grass varieties. Consult with your route manager for the best timing and turfgrass species for your lawn.

We look forward to a great, green summer!

Tom Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare



Like us on Facebook

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

A RECENT COMMENT FROM A SATISFIED CUSTOMER

"I had another service for several years, and my lawn never improved. I switched to Buckeye EcoCare, and after one season, my lawn is thicker, greener, and so soft to walk on. I highly recommend them."

- Steve B.