



**BUCKEYE
ECOCARE®**

Family Owned Since 1984



Getting to the Roots of Grub Control

Your lawn may be a home to a potential killer that, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, may be the most damaging turf insect in the nation – grubs. Not only do grubs damage lawns, but moles, raccoons and skunks can do damage in their hunt for grubs. Eliminating pesky grubs is necessary to ensure a healthy lawn.

Grubs are the larval stage of many different beetles, including the Japanese beetle. Milky white with a brownish head, grubs live below ground and feed on the roots of tender grass plants, killing the plant.

Feeding activity of grubs hits its peak in fall and spring, but now is a perfect time for a preventive treatment. Beetles, particularly June beetles and Japanese beetles, will be laying their eggs in your grass. The eggs will hatch as tiny grubs. The grubs will then disappear into the soil beneath your turf. Once there, they'll quietly feed on the roots of your grass plants until cool weather sets in. Next spring, they'll start feeding again before forming a cocoon from which new beetles will emerge. The new generation lays eggs, and the problem goes on and on.

The good news is that grubs can be controlled. Having your lawn treated now with an application designed to prevent grubs from hatching and beginning to feast on your grass roots is a good idea. The treatment stops grubs before feeding causes serious damage. Your protected lawn is better able to thrive, which means it can fend off other pests and unwanted weeds more easily.

Whichever way you want to go – to prevent or to cure a grub problem, call us for more information.



Water Wisely

It hasn't happened overnight, but we're seeing all sorts of folks taking the lessons of careful conservation to heart. There are lots of ways to save: recycling, careful selection, and just plain using less.

You don't have to make your lawn or landscape plants suffer to save water this summer. The trick is to water wisely to get the most mileage from your sprinkling.

Water deeply. The roots of your lawn will grow deeper if you soak the soil to a depth of six or more inches. The roots of trees and shrubs are far deeper than those of your lawn. Be sure to soak each area thoroughly with each watering.

Be sure all the water you apply actually gets where you want it. Water running down the street won't help anything grow but your water bill.

Apply water when there will be the least amount of evaporation. Windy conditions or extremely hot weather will vaporize a lot of your watering before it can do your plants any good.

Make Fleas Flee and Ticks Take Off!

Having pets and playing outdoors are joys of childhood, but when fleas and ticks enter the mix, you need to take action.

Fleas are everywhere outdoors. They are attracted to warm-bodied, furry animals and jump from one host to the next. They leap off your pets onto people, and their bite is painful and irritating to both children and dogs. They easily end up in your carpet and on your furniture, and a house can quickly become infested with rapidly reproducing fleas.

Ticks are common in wooded areas. They feed by attaching themselves to an animal or human and gorging themselves with blood. A very real threat is that they carry disease. The tiny deer tick is a known carrier of Lyme disease, which begins with a tick bite but can progress to a number of serious conditions. (If you or a member of your household is bitten, pull the tick's head straight out, then call a doctor for advice.)

A barrier can be applied to control tick and flea populations on your lawn. Call us to discuss treatment options that will help protect you and all the members of your household.



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.



Hydration, Hydration, Hydration!

For the past 40 years, our company founder/my father Mark has reminded us every summer how important irrigation is for our plants. Hydration is critical for all living organisms, especially to stay healthy, compete, or in some severe cases merely stay alive.

We see this every day, with human beings at the top of the food chain all the way down to baby grass plants that are simply trying to survive the summer heat and drought. An average adult human being requires 120 to 150 ounces of water each day to maintain natural energy levels. One inch of rainfall or irrigation per week is the amount our plants require to stay healthy and competitive. This is why we prefer planting grass seed in the fall and landscape plants in the early winter.

It is not too early to think about and schedule fall plantings right now. Our fall aeration and seeding crews will be starting shortly after Labor Day when the September rains start. In the meantime, we have the next few months to concentrate on healthy hydration, protecting our plants from insects and disease, and proper feeding for our turf and landscaping.

Stay cool and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!

Tom Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare



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Don't miss out! We are currently scheduling fall aeration and overseeding services, so please call soon to secure your spot on our schedule. Thank you!