

Fall Fertilization Recharges Roots

Throughout the growing season, your grass plants are continuously working to process and convert nutrients into food. Most of that food is used for top growth. In the fall, however, top growth slows down as your grass plants start focusing on building up their root systems and nutrient reserves.

As your lawn shifts its priorities, it changes the way it uses the nutrients in fertilizer. In the spring, high nitrogen levels lead to quick top growth, but that same nitrogen applied in the fall will be put to use strengthening the turf and building up energy reserves for the winter. This ensures that your lawn will green up early in the spring and be resistant to disease and drought throughout the summer.

While it may seem counterintuitive to fertilize this time of year, your lawn can benefit more from these applications than from any other seasonal fertilization.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE LEAVES?

As leaves start to fall, we often have questions about the importance of removing leaves before your fall fertilizer application. While extensive leaf cover can be problematic, Buckeye EcoCare can effectively treat your lawn even with moderate leaf coverage, thanks to the high quality granular fertilizers we use at this time of year.

Rest assured, our technicians are trained to determine if a lawn has too many leaves on it, and your treatment will be rescheduled in that case.



Fall Tree and Shrub Care

No matter what types of trees and shrubs you have, regularly scheduled professional pruning is key to keeping them healthy. Proper pruning will help prevent structural problems, control decay and disease, and lessen the chances of wind and storm damage in severe weather.

While pruning can certainly be done any time of the year, most trees and shrubs respond best if they are pruned in the fall or winter while dormant. However, pruning spring-flowering trees in the fall removes some of the flower buds for spring blooms. Trees such as dogwoods, lilacs, serviceberries, and some magnolias should be pruned after flowering. Crabapples, flowering cherries, redbuds, and flowering pears generally have an abundance of flowers that even when pruned in the fall or winter, enough flower buds remain for a good spring flowering display.

Pruning most trees and shrubs at this time of year doesn't interfere with future buds or new growth, and it's easier to see where pruning is needed after leaves have fallen. As the ground hardens with cooler weather, there's less possibility of damaging your lawn. Plus, your family probably won't be on your lawn as much, so pruning will cause less of a disruption than it would during the summer months.



Time for Fall Cleanups

Fall lawn cleanup can be an unenviable task. This is especially the case during those cold, grey afternoons when the lure of your couch and football on TV tends to be particularly strong. A slight consolation is to think of fall cleanup as more of a preparation for the following spring than the culmination of the current year's activity.

Typically, the biggest cleanup task at this time of the year is leaf removal. Thick blankets of leaves left to lie can damage grass by blocking needed sunlight, thus weakening the turf's viability. If left on the ground through the winter, fallen leaves can also render your lawn more susceptible to winter damage.



Though it's very important to remove the worst of the leaves, there's no need to obsess over total eradication. A few leaves in your flower beds are harmless and, upon decomposition, will provide nutrients for the soil. Likewise, a thin layer of leaves can be mulched by a mower, negating the need for removal while actually feeding your lawn. If you have a large amount of leaves, composting is a great way to make the most of leaf waste. Mulching with a mower before composting will make the decomposition process even more effective.

Cutting back perennials and removing dead or dying branches from trees and shrubs will help prepare both for go-time in the spring.

Moving flowerpots indoors, or at least under cover, will prevent moisture from destroying them over the winter.

Cursory cleanup efforts can be tempting in the fall, but a more thorough job will be extremely beneficial come springtime.

Your Loyalty Has Fueled Our Growth



Just six years ago, we moved our south Dayton operations from Centerville to Miamisburg to better access our southern markets. The Miamisburg building, pictured here, is 50% larger than our former Centerville facility, and we did not anticipate the level of sustained customer growth we have experienced. Our northern markets are serviced from our Vandalia building, which is large enough to manage 10% annual growth for the foreseeable future.



Today's marketing efforts, combined with the knowledge of our leadership team and the experience of our route managers, have fueled our continued growth. As a result, we are expanding our Miamisburg building to better serve you. A few reasons we need more space include housing additional equipment, creating ample indoor parking for all vehicles, and increasing our material inventories.

Thank you to BRIK Construction Company for their efforts on this project and to our landlord for the advanced planning of our expansion. We hope to be in our new space before winter's first snowfall!

Thank You For Growing With Us

As we near the close of another growing season, I want to personally express my sincere gratitude to all of our loyal customers. On behalf of the entire Buckeye EcoCare team, thank you for your continued trust, patience, and partnership throughout what has been a uniquely challenging year.

This season started off unusually wet, transitioned into a hot, dry stretch, and is now wrapping up on a wetter note. As those of you with lawns and landscapes know all too well, these shifting conditions brought their share of challenges – not only for turf health but also for the timing and effectiveness of treatments. Through it all, your understanding and support allowed us to stay flexible, adjust our approach as needed, and keep working toward the best possible results for your properties.

Lawn care, tree and shrub care, and pest control are not one-size-fits-all services – they're partnerships. Your communication, feedback, and commitment to proper watering and mowing practices make all the difference. With your help, we're better able to deliver safe, effective, and environmentally responsible care that protects and enhances your outdoor spaces.

As we move into fall and begin preparing for the season ahead, please know how much we value the trust you've placed in us. We're proud to serve you and look forward to continuing our partnership in the months and years to come.

Thank you again for being part of the Buckeye EcoCare family.

Tom Grunkemeyer
President



Tom R. Grunkemeyer
President, Buckeye EcoCare

**REFER
A FRIEND**

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

Contact us today!

