



**BUCKEYE  
ECOCARE®**

Spring

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*Your Hometown Lawn Care Company*

## Here They Come Again

**BROADLEAF WEEDS WILL SOON BE MAKING THEIR YEARLY DEBUT**

Broadleaf (non-grassy) weeds are a real thorn in the side of homeowners everywhere. Besides the well-known dandelion, there are lots of others that can invade your lawn, including black medic, chickweed, cinquefoil, knotweed and purslane (to name just a few).

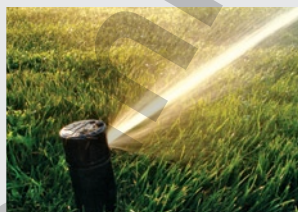
The best way to control these pushy pests is to keep your lawn as thick and healthy as possible, since a lush lawn leaves less room for broadleaf weeds to grow.

**DENSE TURF CAN BE ENCOURAGED THROUGH:**



### Regular fertilization.

This will expand and strengthen the root system for more vigorous growth.



### Supplemental irrigation.

In the absence of rainfall, you should provide your lawn with 1" to 1½" of water per week.



### Insect and disease control as needed.

Left untreated, insects and diseases can kill off large portions of your lawn, and broadleaf weeds will be more than happy to take up residence where your healthy grass used to be.



### Proper mowing.

It's best to mow high enough so that no more than 1/3 of the grass blade is removed at a time. This keeps the soil cool and shaded, discouraging the growth of broadleaf weeds which grow best in warm, sunny conditions.

### WHAT IF THAT DOESN'T WORK?

Sometimes, even the best-maintained lawns end up playing host to broadleaf weed invaders. When this happens, post-emergent herbicides come in very handy. These herbicides kill broadleaf weeds while they're actively growing (pre-emergent herbicides, like those used to prevent crabgrass, don't work on many broadleaf weeds).

Depending on weather conditions, some post-emergent herbicides can take up to three weeks to completely eliminate broadleaf weeds, so you'll need to be patient. It may also be necessary to reapply weed controls if new broadleaf weed seeds happen to germinate.

When it comes to broadleaf weeds, persistence pays off. The right combination of good maintenance practices and weed control treatments is the key to success. Call Buckeye EcoCare today to learn more.

*PLEASE NOTE: Newly seeded lawns should be given adequate time to get established before post-emergent herbicides are used on them. Weed control applications should be avoided until the new grass has been mowed three to five times.*







Mark Grunkemeyer  
President, Buckeye EcoCare

## Lawn Disease Basics

April showers bring May flowers, and unfortunately May showers can bring out turf grass diseases. The triangle pictured below depicts the three components needed for a disease to develop.

**HOST:** The grass plant itself. You must have a susceptible host plant in order for the disease to cause damage. Some plants such as turf-type tall fescue are not susceptible to common diseases.

**PATHOGEN:** This is the disease or fungus. Most disease organisms are present in the thatch layer all year long. The fungus is activated by just the right combination of temperatures and moisture. This is why we see most diseases during the summer months when it is warm and wet.

**ENVIRONMENT:** As previously explained, it takes a perfect environmental storm to activate any disease. Overcast days, poor air circulation, higher daytime and nighttime temperatures, and excessive moisture all contribute to potential disease development.



For turf grass professionals, diagnosis is easy because most diseases look just like their names: red thread, leaf spot, dollar spot and fairy ring to name just a few.

Solutions are not so easy. We cannot change the **environment**, the **pathogen** is always present, and changing grass varieties (the **host**) is not a simple process.

Summer turf grass diseases can be difficult and challenging. Feel free to visit our website for more information, or contact your lawn specialist for proper diagnosis and recommendations. The good news is that most diseases here in southern Ohio are very short-lived and do not cause permanent damage to the plant.



### DEAR BUCKEYE ECOCARE:

"Mike is super. He always calls before coming out so my dogs are inside the house. Mike leaves notes about my lawn. He is knowledgeable, personable and willing to listen to my concerns."

Customer #101936

## Emerald Ash Borer Update

Emerald ash borers have killed tens of millions of ash trees through the feeding activity of their larvae, which disrupts the trees' ability to transport water and nutrients. This devastating pest continues to spread, and has now been found in the following states and provinces:

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Ontario and Quebec in Canada

### SIGNS OF INFESTATION

The following symptoms may indicate that ash trees are under attack:

- Vertical splits in the bark
- Serpentine larval feeding galleries visible in the wood grain
- D-shaped exit holes on bark surfaces
- Canopy dieback from the top down
- New sprouts pushing out from the trunk after upper portions of the tree die

### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

**Preventative steps** can be taken to help **minimize** emerald ash borer damage. These include insecticide applications, regular watering and deep-root fertilization.

If you notice any of the symptoms mentioned here, a prompt inspection is highly recommended.



An adult emerald ash borer.\*



\*Photo courtesy of: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Forestry Archive.

1) Coupon Savings  
2) Seasonal Tips  
3) Save a Tree  
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Please contact us electronically at [dawn@buckeyeecocare.com](mailto:dawn@buckeyeecocare.com)