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The Batchelder Company



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Legit or Not?



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From Sedgwick

spring 2023 / [www.ohiolawncare.org](http://www.ohiolawncare.org)

# OLCANNEWS

IT PAYS TO BE GREEN



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** **2023 FIELD DAY – AUGUST 2**

OTF Research & Education Center  
2551 Carmack Road, Columbus, OH 43210

OLCA invites all who are in the lawn and landscape maintenance industry to join us. Registration begins at 8:00 am. Continuing education sessions will begin at 9:00 am.

A complete list of continuing education sessions and online registration is available at [www.ohiolawncare.org](http://www.ohiolawncare.org). If you have any questions call us at 800-510-5296.

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, Matt Ellis, President GrassMaster, Inc.



### Grow Your Lawn Care Business with OLCA Membership

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## FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Mark Bennett, CAE, IOM



Hopefully your 2023 is off to a good start. Many lawn care operators I've spoken with have reported, aside from contending with a very wet and cold spring, the season has been strong.

OLCA is planning to hold its two Field Days this summer in person – one in Wooster and one in Columbus this August. These events provide topical research regarding lawn disease management and pests – all while providing much-needed pesticide recertification credits.

OLCA continues to partner with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF) by collaborating with its advocacy efforts at the Ohio Statehouse. It is through these efforts that the state budget bill currently has an amendment to providing funding for OSU's turfgrass faculty and students to improve water quality through turfgrass research. These efforts, along with our lobbyists who have a daily presence at the Statehouse, and the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Political Action Committee (OTFPAC) all elevate the voice of the lawn care industry in Ohio. Please consider visiting the OTF site and make a PAC donation under the Advocacy tab to ensure we can continue to amplify our collective voice.

Be sure to mark your calendar for November 4 where OLCA members will help beautify the hallowed grounds at the Dayton National Veterans Cemetery in Dayton and the Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman. This annual event is Ohio's lawn care industry's way to give back by winterizing the grounds of the cemeteries with fertilizer. This is OLCA's community outreach project and is reliant upon volunteers just like you to get the work done. Watch for upcoming details or sign up at one of our Field Days this summer.

Looking forward to seeing you all in person at an OLCA event this year!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 800-510-5296 or by email at [mark@bennett-management-llc.com](mailto:mark@bennett-management-llc.com).



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Batchelder Company

It is officially Spring here in Ohio which means baseball season has begun and lawmakers in Columbus are eager to 'shake off the rust' on their backswing before their summer golf fundraisers. In Columbus, legislators are busy introducing bills and vetting the Governor's introduced version of the biennium state operating budget known as H.B. 33. After taking January and early February to organize committees and the session schedule, the House has been working since mid-February to hear testimony and ask questions about the Governor's proposed budget in the Finance committee chaired by Representative Jay Edwards and four other subcommittees focused on various subjects such as Agriculture, Infrastructure, Public Safety, Education, and Health and Human Services. The House is on schedule to add amendments and vote on the budget by late-April before sending it to the Senate for that chamber's own consideration. Lawmakers have a constitutional deadline of June 25 to pass a budget and send it to the Governor's desk or else they will need to pass a continuing resolution to extend the deadline.

In other news, former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder was convicted on federal racketeering charges recently along with lobbyist Matt Borges. The two were found guilty by a jury for conspiring to pass a law that would bailout the creditors of two nuclear power plants in Ohio in exchange for political campaign contributions by First Energy. Both men are awaiting sentencing that could possibly amount to 20 years in federal prison.

Your legislative advocates have been holding meetings to garner support for an amendment to the budget that

would allocate \$1,000,000 over the next two fiscal years for turfgrass and water quality research studies. We are grateful to Representative Rodney Creech for his continuous support of our industry. Our goal is to get some funding for this amendment included in the House version of the budget so we can then go to the Senate and ask them to either increase our funding to the desired level or maintain our funding if we get the amount requested.

During the legislature's break in April, we continued communicating with lawmakers about our amendment until the budget is passed out of the House. We hope you all have a successful Spring season and thank you for your continued trust in our team to serve your interests at the Statehouse.

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## WINTER ANNUAL WEEDS IN TURFGRASS – PLAN NOW FOR CONTROL

David Gardner, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University

Most of the weeds that we encounter in turfgrass are either summer annuals (which germinate in spring, grow, and set seed in summer, then die in the fall), or perennials (which persist for multiple seasons). There are, however, winter annual weeds that germinate in autumn, persist vegetatively over winter, and then grow rapidly and flower/set seed in late spring (see Figure 1). These will die on their own by early summer. However, control in the spring with postemergence herbicides can be difficult. If you are having trouble with these weeds, plan now for either a preemergence or postemergence application this fall, either of which may be more effective for control.

Common chickweed, henbit, hairy bittercress, and corn speedwell (AKA veronica) are very common and widespread. Some other winter annual weeds in turf include Shepard's purse, creeping speedwell, and purple deadnettle. Like summer annual weeds, they spread by seed, not vegetatively like ground ivy or other perennial weeds. There are also some weeds that persist vegetatively year over year, but the foliage is only noticeable or a nuisance in late winter/early spring. These plants include wild garlic, wild onion, and spring beauty (see Figure 2). Annual bluegrass is opportunistic, but the main flush of germination of the annual biotypes is in fall and thus it is considered a winter annual weed.

### Weeds to target in fall - Winter annual broadleaf weeds

Henbit and chickweed have always been around. However, hairy bittercress and veronica have only recently become more serious or widespread in Ohio, possibly due in part to the milder winters we have experienced in the last 10 years. Each is highly competitive in thin or dormant turf or in newly seeded areas. However, a vigorous lawn will tend to out-compete them. So, the best defense against winter annuals is to properly maintain your turfgrass. This includes

selecting the right species for the location and usage and proper cultural practices (proper mowing, fertility, irrigation, and aeration). A good management program this year that improves turfgrass density can go a long way towards reducing problems with these weeds.

If, however, an herbicide is required, the timing of application is very important for optimal control. The chief concern is that a dense mat of winter annual weeds, after they die in the spring, will open a bare spot in the turf that may be filled in by crabgrass and other summer annual weeds. Since winter annuals thrive in cool, moist conditions, germination depends on a combination of lower soil temperature and increased precipitation. In years in which there are very warm temperatures and little precipitation in early fall, germination is delayed. Therefore, timing of pre- and especially postemergence herbicides would need to be delayed.

Winter annuals can be controlled preemergence with a fall application. It is important to note that a fall application will likely degrade and not be effective against crabgrass and other summer annuals next spring so a specific preemergence application targeting winter annuals should only be used when you have a severe infestation. That said, if you have areas with severe infestations, May is the time to map them out so that you know where to apply the preemergence herbicide in late August or early September. Among the preemergence herbicides, pendimethalin, prodiamine, dithiopyr and isoxaben are labelled. Dithiopyr and isoxaben have the most winter annuals listed on the label so either is a good choice. There is also a new product for use in turf and ornamental beds that combines both active ingredients called Crew herbicide.

Best control of winter annuals with postemergence herbicides is achieved if applications are made in the late fall to actively growing plants. Remember to read and follow manufacturer directions and recommendations on the label. Ideally, winter annuals can be controlled with the same fall application that targets dandelions and other perennial broadleaf weeds.

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**FIGURE 1. WINTER ANNUAL BROADLEAF WEEDS**



**Common Chickweed –**  
*Stellaria media*

Glabrous leaves are rounded at the base and pointed at the tip. Small white flowers with deeply notched petals.



**Henbit –**  
*Lamium amplexicaule*

Square stems. Terminal leaves attached directly to main stem. Lower leaves on short branches.



**Hairy Bittercress –**  
*Cardamine hirsute*

Long narrow siliques [seed pods] explosively disperse seed up to 10 feet. Alternately arranged round leaflets.



**Shepard's Purse –**  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*



**Corn Speedwell –**  
*Veronica arvensis*



**Purple Deadnettle –**  
*Lamium purpureum*

**FIGURE 2. MONOCOTYLEDONOUS WEEDS OF WINTER**



**Annual Bluegrass –**  
*Poa annua*

Boat shaped leaf tips. Bunch type growth habit and a distinct membranous ligule.



**Wild Garlic – *Allium vineale***  
**Wild Onion – *A. canadense***

Garlic has hollow leaves, onion has flat leaves.



**Hairy Bittercress –**  
*Cardamine hirsute*

Long narrow siliques [seed pods] explosively disperse seed up to 10 feet. Alternately arranged round leaflets.

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However, if the application is made too early in the fall, these species will continue to germinate from seed, which will require reapplication for effective control.

Postemergence herbicides can be used on winter annuals in the spring. However, these applications are sometimes not as effective because the weeds have hardened off due to winter stress. Also, you must target the application no later than when the weed is flowering, which can be a challenge if temperatures are cool. Florasulam is an active ingredient that is effective against winter annual broadleaf weeds and has good activity in cool weather. It is sold as Defendor herbicide. You can also try combination herbicides. Generally, the more expensive options or products with 4 ai's are the ones that are needed for consistent results. Since they are annuals, control after they have set seed is usually not warranted, unless for aesthetic considerations.

#### **Weed to target in early spring or fall – Annual Bluegrass**

*Poa annua* may be annual or perennial. The annual biotypes are opportunistic, that is they germinate at just about any time of the year. However, annual bluegrass is technically a winter annual with a primary flush of germination in October. Development of 100% effective annual bluegrass controls has been elusive, but there are some recommendations. Xonerate is a postemergence herbicide labelled for annual bluegrass control in residential turfgrass. Consult the label for specifics. Best control is with 2 or 3 applications initiated in early spring. Some also report good success with sequential applications of Prograss herbicide applied in fall. Prograss has both pre and postemergence activity. In addition, some of our preemergence herbicides are labeled for annual bluegrass control and most research shows that you can achieve an 80% reduction in germination. It is very important to consult the label and begin preemergence applications in early September before annual bluegrass begins to germinate (same timing as for winter annual broadleaf weeds). While preemergence herbicides may reduce your annual bluegrass population, they generally will not eliminate it because the surviving plants are more than able to set seed for the following year.

#### **Weed to target in early spring – Lesser celandine**

Becoming more widespread by the year is lesser celandine, which is an invasive species (Figure 3). It is an ephemeral, meaning that the leaves and flowers are only visible in the early spring (like our ornamental bulbs). Control with herbicides can be difficult. You can try manual removal by digging the bulbs. You can also apply glyphosate (non-selective). Some selective control in turfgrass may be

achieved if you apply a combination herbicide that contains at least two of the following active ingredients: MCPA, triclopyr, and dicamba.

#### **Weeds to target in early spring - Wild Garlic and Wild Onion (*Allium* spp.) and Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)**

These species are also ephemerals and become quite noticeable in turf in late winter or early spring, because they green up and grow a few weeks before the turf does. As a result, they tend to be visible as clumps of foliage up to 12 inches in height in otherwise still dormant turf. They are monocots, like our grasses, but they are not grasses. Just as sedges are different than grasses, so too are the *Allium* and *Claytonia* species. In fact, these are more closely related to amaryllis and daffodils. And there in lies the problem ... there are no research dollars being devoted to develop herbicides that effectively control daffodils or related species. Thus, dedicated selective controls for these weeds do not exist. If you have a serious problem, you can attempt to treat them with herbicides that contain either 2,4-D or sulfentrazone (or both). Each of these ai's have shown more activity against these weeds. Another strategy is to keep them cut short, either by mowing or with hand shears. As bulbs, they persist vegetatively for a period after flowering and then the foliage dies back for the season. If you mow or otherwise defoliate them early, you weaken the plant and reduce its ability to develop as vigorously the next year. Winter annual weeds are usually not our most serious weeds in turf. However, they can, on occasion, become quite noticeable and problematic. The key is to recognize the uniqueness of the life cycle and target your herbicide application for the right time of year, which for several of the weeds mentioned will be this upcoming late summer or early fall.



Figure 3. Lesser celandine is an invasive species that can spread into turfgrass. Selective control in turfgrass can be difficult.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ‘NO MOW MAY’

### Bob Mann, Director of State and Local Government Relations, NALP

Well, it's finally May, and the newspapers and online forums are filled to the brim with articles telling you not to mow your lawn this month. For the pollinators, they say. Everyone is busy and no one has the time to look to see if this “No Mow May” thing is legit or not.

Except for me (you can thank me later). And what I found was worse than I thought.

The initial concept behind “No Mow May” can be traced to a group in Great Britain called Plantlife. The concept is if you do not mow your lawn during the month of May, it allows flowers to bloom, which in turn, provides food for pollinators. Everyone loves bees, right? Who could be in opposition to bees?

Here in the U.S., the cause was taken up in Appleton, Wisconsin. There the city adopted the concept in 2020 and made it a permanent policy in 2022. In adopting the policy, the city relied upon research conducted by a city resident who is also a university professor. There's only one problem: the study was bunk.

“In the spirit of full transparency, after finding inconsistencies between the published summary data and raw data, the authors and the editorial team have agreed to retract this article. The formal retraction notice will be published shortly,” said the notice on the paper's website. Ouch. News stories in early April 2023 out of Appleton suggest that in light of the study retraction that the city is considering abandoning their “No Mow May” policy.

You may ask why this is so infuriating? The answer is quite simple: turfgrass managers love pollinators too. Properly maintained, your lawn is a net benefit for the environment. The list of these benefits is quite long, from preventing erosion to capturing and sequestering carbon but you'll hear none of those things from people who hate lawns and want you to hate them as well.

Another study that actually is legitimate looked at the concept of how reducing lawn maintenance impacts pollinators and arrived at some surprising conclusions. What these scientists did was to take over the mowing chores at a number of residential homes and subject them to different mowing regimes.

What they found for the lawns mowed weekly is about what you'd expect. Since weekly mowing will remove weed flowers, there weren't very many pollinators visiting the lawn. Lawns that were mowed every second week had far more pollinators visiting, ostensibly because there were more weed flowers.

Here's where it gets interesting: for the lawns that were mowed every third week, the abundance of pollinators was less than the lawns mowed every two weeks. The researchers theorized that the reason why there were more pollinators in the two-week lawns versus the three-week lawns was that it was easier for the pollinators to access the flowers in the two-week lawns. I think that makes sense.

Here's the bottom line for me: maintain your customers' lawns properly throughout the entire season. That means mowing at the right height and at the right frequency. It also means irrigating in a responsible way that is healthy for the lawn but also is respectful of water resources. Other things that you can do to improve the sustainability of your clients' lawns include aeration of the soil and periodic overseeding to ensure strong plants.

But what to do about weeds? That depends upon your customer's expectations. If they simply cannot stand the sight of weeds I would suggest using a spot spraying technique – just spray the weed itself instead of the entire lawn area – and to mow off any flowers present prior to spraying.





Save the Date



# 2023 FIELD DAY

AUGUST 2, 2023



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

OTF Research & Education Center  
2551 Carmack Road  
Columbus, OH 43210

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

## Join Us On 11/4! A Grateful Embrace

Dayton National Cemetery, Dayton, OH  
The Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery, Rittman, OH



We invite all lawn care and landscape professionals to join us on Saturday, November 4 at the Dayton National Cemetery in Dayton and/or Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery in Rittman for "A Grateful Embrace". Show your support to our soldiers and veterans by giving back to those who gave all.

Most of the materials (fertilizer) will be provided through the generous donations of our industry suppliers. However, we are asking that those who can donate 5 bags of fertilizer to the cause. You'll need to bring spreaders, blowers and all the manpower you can muster to help us get 160 acres of turf fertilized on that day. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to honor those men, women and their families, both living and deceased, who provided the ultimate sacrifice that we might remain a free nation.

For more information on donations email it to [lori@bennett-management-llc.com](mailto:lori@bennett-management-llc.com) by November 1. Registration is available at [www.ohiolawnca.org](http://www.ohiolawnca.org).

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Save the Date

# Northeast Seminar

*August 7, 2023*

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# BWC NEWS FROM SEDGWICK

The month of May is Open Enrollment – an opportunity for Ohio employers that have state-funded workers' compensation coverage to select their Managed Care Organization (MCO). Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio is a key partner for our workers' compensation program and happens to be Ohio's largest MCO – by far – in both claims managed and employers served.<sup>1</sup>

**Recordkeeping and documentation** One of the roles of an MCO is to collect the essential data elements of a workplace injury to initiate a workers' compensation claim. Depending on the approach to collecting and arranging this information, the MCO can be an excellent warehousing partner for injury-related data.

Sedgwick MCO provides clients a series of value-added reports designed to facilitate record keeping obligations of OSHA and PERRP. Many report options include an ongoing tally of lost workdays associated with each claim, as well as the number of modified duty workdays. Access to this information on a monthly, quarterly and especially an annual basis (early January) can help employers complete their OSHA 300 and PERRP posting that is due each February.

MCOs should also be able to account for additional datapoints to help determine whether a workers' compensation claim is OSHA-recordable. For example, if medications are prescribed in the treatment of a workplace injury, it may be OSHA recordable despite having incurred no lost or modified workdays. Similarly, if treatment for an injury includes services that exceed what is considered first-aid in nature, the injury may also be recordable despite involving no lost time. An example of this would be a laceration that involves stitches, but the employee returns to work immediately. Referencing medical billing codes to identify specific covered treatments can be a simple way to gather information that simplifies the OSHA and PERRP reporting process.

## **Injury Reporting**

The claim filing process depends on information from multiple parties, including the injured employee

and the treating physician. But Sedgwick MCO encourages employers to take action as quickly as possible after a workplace incident to control this vital early stage of the process. Establishing post-injury protocols that include thorough documentation of the incident, as well as compiling information required by BWC, can accelerate a sound claim allowance decision. Early clarity on the nature of incident and injury can help frame the scope of the claim and define the medical conditions that are included for treatment.

The First Report of Injury (FROI) is the standard BWC form that accommodates the required information and typically initiates a new claim. Many employers keep the FROI on-hand to serve as an incident report. Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio will provide clients with an Injury Reporting Packet, which can include the FROI and other forms and information to help guide both the employer and the injured employee through the claim process.

Many employers have developed an incident report that collects much of the information required for the workers' compensation claim. Consider modifications to your incident report that may facilitate a more efficient claim filing process. One of the best steps an employer can take to promote speed and accuracy in claim filing is to have an incident report completed quickly and sent directly to the managed care organization.

## **Contact Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio**

If you feel there is room for improvement with your organization's injury management program, or if you can use assistance organizing data for OSHA recording, Sedgwick MCO can help. Every work environment is different, and Sedgwick can talk through your circumstances to build a process that works for you and your employees. Visit Sedgwick MCO online to explore performance metrics and service features, or reach out directly at [ClientServices@Sedgwickmco.com](mailto:ClientServices@Sedgwickmco.com).

<sup>1</sup>BWC Demographic Data, January 2023, and BWC Public Data SP23-01161 as of 3/21/2023.

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Here are some highlights:

- **Workers Compensation Group Rating Program:** Access cost-effective group rating plans designed to lower your workers' compensation premiums significantly.
- **Technical Training Programs:** Sharpen your skills and stay ahead of the competition with our comprehensive technical training programs. Stay up-to-date with the latest industry trends, techniques, and best practices.
- **Free Plant/Pest Diagnostics:** Take advantage of our invaluable plant and pest diagnostic services, which are available to members free of charge. Our experts are here to assist you in identifying and resolving issues, ensuring your clients' satisfaction.

## 2. Advocacy, Support, and a Better Business Environment

As an OLCA member, you gain a powerful ally in the realm of environmental issues and legislation. We work tirelessly to support your business interests and provide you with a voice within the industry. Our dedicated team is available to answer your questions, provide guidance, and work with legislators to create a more favorable business environment in Ohio.

## 3. Unparalleled Education and Networking Opportunities

Stay ahead of the curve with the OSU Turf Team technical advisory videos and emails, exclusive to OLCA members. This resource will keep you informed about the latest turf innovations, research, and insights from industry experts. Furthermore, our education and networking events provide the perfect platform to connect with like-minded professionals, exchange ideas, and explore collaborative opportunities.

### Upcoming Events

- **Summer Field Day:** Join us on August 2, 2023, at the OTF Research & Education Center in Columbus. This event promises a day filled with insightful sessions,

practical demonstrations, and networking opportunities. Stay tuned for the detailed agenda and secure your spot.

- **Northeast Turfgrass Seminar:** Mark your calendars for August 7, 2023, as we gather at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, ATI in Wooster. Engage in thought-provoking discussions, learn from industry experts, and expand your professional network.
- **Grateful Embrace:** On November 4, 2023, we invite you to attend the Grateful Embrace event at the Dayton National Cemetery AND The Ohio Western Reserve Cemetery. This is an opportunity to give back to the soldiers and veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. Bring your spreaders, blowers, and manpower to help fertilize 160 acres of turf and show your support.

Don't miss out on these incredible opportunities to learn, connect, and make a difference in your community. If you aren't already a member, join OLCA today and unlock the full potential of your lawn care business.

To learn more about YOUR membership benefits, upcoming events, and how to get involved, visit [www.ohiolawn care.org](http://www.ohiolawn care.org).

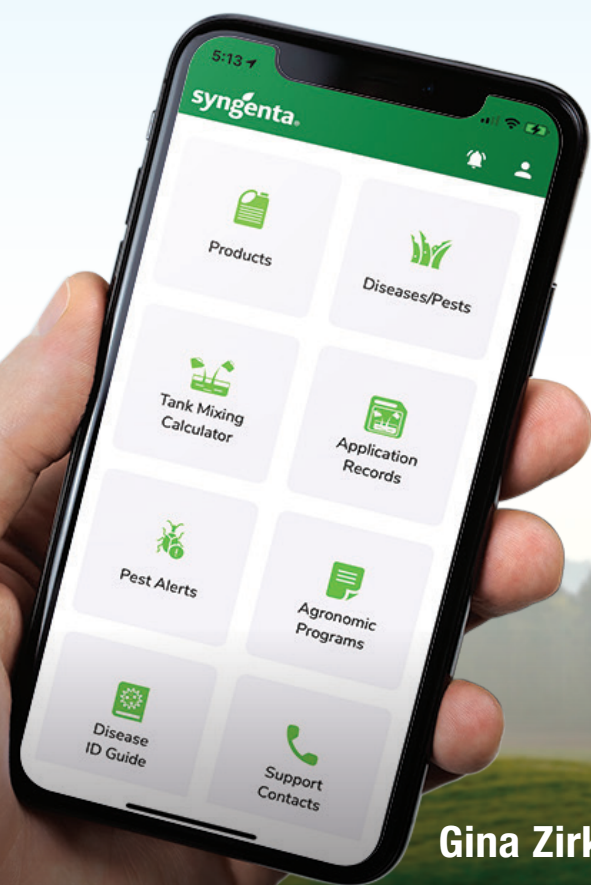
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Columbus, OH 43215

# OHIO LAWN CARE ASSOCIATION

Phone: 800-510-5296 • [www.OhioLawnCare.org](http://www.OhioLawnCare.org)

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