

# THE BUGGETTE



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## Bare in Mind by Josh Bare

Not many kids get excited about fruits and vegetables – except for pumpkins. The Halloween connection makes them kind of magical, and I remember from my childhood looking forward to the Charlie Brown special and the tale of the Great Pumpkin. This past summer, we had some great pumpkin adventures of our own.



It all started last fall with a trip to Youngstown, Ohio, at the Canfield County Fair. My dad has attended the fair ever since he was a kid, and the annual pilgrimage as an adult is a chance to take in the sights and catch up with family who still live in that area. This year, like so many years before, my dad, my wife and kids, and I headed up north, in our well used but faithful minivan.

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## Fun Fall Facts

- The Chinese celebrate the Moon Festival around this time with particular emphasis on being thankful for the success of the summer harvest.
- Favorite fall fruit and vegetables include apples, spinach, squash, bell peppers and, of course, pumpkin.
- During this period birds prepare for winter migration. One of the longest migrations is the 11,000-mile journey by the arctic tern.
- While we call this season 'fall,' the British call it 'autumn.' Both words date from around the same period in the 16th century. Before these terms came into use, this period was called 'harvest'.

Source: <http://www.parkrideflyusa.com/blog/2012/09/21/12-fun-facts-about-fall/>

## Winterize Your Trees & Shrubs

Trees and shrubs need care and protection from the cold and ice of winter to stay healthy and produce beautiful foliage for spring.

- Continue to water them until the ground freezes.
- Provide a warm blanket of mulch to protect the root structure.
- Fertilize now to keep them well fed through the winter.

If you are on our Gold or Platinum program, application #6 took care of fertilization for winter feeding. If you're on our Silver program, call us soon. During the fall, we can apply a single treatment of our slow-release fertilizer.

This special formula reacts to soil temperatures, delivering fertilizer to your ornamental trees and shrubs when they need it, to help them develop a stronger root system and become more resistant to diseases and insects. You'll see lusher growth and greener leaves this spring.



What is a turkey's favorite dessert?

Peach Gobbler



## Let Your Lawn Breathe Easy this Fall

It's so important to keep your lawn leaf-free during fall. A buildup of leaves can damage lawns by smothering the grass. It also prevents the liquid treatments we apply from doing what they need to do. So break out the rake – or better yet, the leaf blower. We recommend using a leaf blower because it doesn't tear delicate turf the way a rake can.

Look for more seasonal tips on lawn, tree and shrub care in this issue and on our Facebook page.

## Lawn Care for Fall & Winter

Lawns need proper care all year long. Following our recommendations for fall and winter will help give you the lush, healthy lawn you enjoy in the spring and summer.



- **Zoysia Patch & Grubs:** Fall's the ideal time to get the leg up on these pests. Call us for your free consultation and estimate for our preemptive treatments.



- **Fall Aeration & Overseeding:** Fescue, a cool-season grass, needs some TLC after a hot summer. Aeration enables water, air, and nutrients from fertilizers, to travel down to the grass roots. Overseeding fills in thin and bare spots left behind by summer heat. Call to schedule your aeration and overseeding today.



- **DIY Overseeding:** Want to tackle those bare spots yourself? Here's how. Rough up bare spots with a rake or small shovel, then seed the areas. Cover the seeds with Fescue straw to protect them and hold in moisture. (With wheat straw, you'll have wheat growing in the spring.) Keep the seeded areas moist until the new grass is well established. It's very important that the seeds never dry out during the first two weeks.



- **Leave Grass Clippings Behind:** When you mow, leave clippings on the lawn. They will break down and add nutrients to the soil.



- **Nix Supplemental Fertilizers:** Our fertilization for warm-season grasses allows the lawn to go dormant during winter, which protects it from freezing temperatures. Using additional fertilizer could cause a growth spurt during an early freeze.



- **Raise Your Mower Blade:** For fall, leave your grass a little longer. Here are the ideal heights for different grasses:

Centipede: 2–2.5 inches

Fescue: 3.5–4.25 inches

Rye: 2–3 inches

Seeded Bermuda: 2–3 inches

Sodded Bermuda: 1.5–2.5 inches

St. Augustine: 3–4 inches

Zoysia: 1.5–2.5 inches



## Arbor-Nomics Prepay Special

Don't forget to take advantage of our prepay special. Look for your prepay letter in the mail in November and **save 5% on your 2017 service when you prepay by 12/31/16.**

## Application #6

We reserve the right to modify any of our treatments should the weather require it.

### What we did to your lawn today:

1. Warm-season grasses received a pre-emergent to prevent winter weeds and a treatment to get rid of broadleaf weeds. You should see broadleaf weeds die within two weeks. If you don't, email or call the office to let us know.
2. **Fescue** lawns received a granular fertilizer to enhance new seed growth. If you're on our Platinum program, please schedule your aeration and overseeding, if you haven't already. If you're on our Silver or Gold program, call us for a quote on your fall aeration and overseeding.

### What we did to your trees and shrubs today:

(Gold or Platinum program ONLY)

1. We applied fertilizer to promote root growth. Strengthening the roots of your trees and shrubs gives them a strong base to last through the winter and thrive in the spring. The nutrients from this fertilizer will still be in the soil in the spring when new growth starts.

### What you need to do until our next visit:

1. During fall, all lawns should receive about 1" of water each week from rain or irrigation. Trees and shrubs should receive a thorough watering from rain or irrigation once each month. When the ground is wet about 2 to 3 inches down, your trees and shrubs have enough water.
2. **Fescue** lawns should be mowed every 5-6 days. For optimal appearance, don't remove more than one-third of the grass blades at each cutting.
3. Trim shrubs regularly – it helps them grow better.
4. Remove leaves from your lawn. Leaf buildup not only damages the grass, it can render liquid treatments ineffective. We recommend using a leaf blower rather than a rake.

If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call Customer Service, Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm at **(770) 447-6037**. If you call after hours, leave a message and we'll return your call the next business day.



## Helpful Phone Numbers

### ARBOR-NOMICS TURF, INC.

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## Five Fun Turkey Facts

- 1 Turkeys are known to exhibit over 20 different vocalizations including a distinct gobble, produced by males, which can be heard a mile away.
- 2 Turkeys have outstanding geography skills. They have the ability to learn the precise details of an area over 1,000 acres in size.
- 3 Like peacocks, male turkeys puff up their bodies and spread their elaborate feathers to attract a mate.
- 4 Wild turkeys can fly at up to 55 mph, but only for short distances. Most domestic turkeys, however, are unable to fly at all due to being selectively bred to be larger than their wild counterparts.
- 5 Benjamin Franklin wished to have wild turkeys as the national bird of the USA, rather than the bald eagle.



Source: [http://www.onekind.org/be\\_inspired/animals\\_a\\_z/turkey/](http://www.onekind.org/be_inspired/animals_a_z/turkey/)

What did  
one autumn  
leaf say to  
another?

I'm falling for you.





The entire trip was great, as usual, but one exhibit in particular captivated the kids – the giant pumpkins. These can easily grow to a thousand pounds or more. If that sounds impressive on paper, imagine what it’s like to actually see them up close and personal, especially for kids! Some enterprising souls

were selling seeds from a previous year’s champion, and my son Lincoln wanted a shot at growing his own giant pumpkin, so we bought a packet of four seeds.

Of course, we had to wait until spring, but when the planting season finally rolled around, into the ground went our usual heirloom tomatoes, green peppers, sweet white corn, and Lincoln’s four giant-pumpkin seeds. He sowed three of the seeds in an area of the garden that was on the shady side and one where it got more sun. Every day Lincoln, along with his sister and brother, dutifully tended to the seeds, watering them and eagerly looking for signs of little green leaves poking through the surface of the soil.

It finally happened, but only for the seed planted in the sunny spot. The other three never germinated, and as far as the kids were concerned, this called for an investigation. Using an approach loosely inspired by archaeological digs, the kids set out to uncover the mystery of the un-germinated seeds. I say “loosely inspired” because unlike the delicate technique we’ve all seen on TV, where excavations are done carefully with trowels and brushes, the kids opted for the irrigation method. They cranked up the garden hose, unleashing a whole lot of water that successfully created a whole lot of mud to wallow in, but provided little in the way of information regarding the fate of the three seeds. Nonetheless, the effort was honorable and was followed up with more water – bath water – and scrubbing.



As for the surviving plant, it was doing very well. Long vines with gigantic leaves grew up the garden fence and soon breached the border, making their way toward our back

porch. This one plant threatened to take over our backyard, which explains why only four seeds came in the packet.

It wasn’t long before we spotted not one but three “baby” pumpkins forming on the vine. The kids were so excited and checked on the progress of their plant every day. Eventually, two of the pumpkins shriveled and died, but the remaining one kept going strong. As luck would have it, of course, the aspiring giant pumpkin was dangling from the garden fence, and I had to create a three-foot high cinder block platform to support it.



Our pumpkin was now protected from crashing to the ground under its own quickly increasing weight. Cinder blocks, however, can’t protect it from the ravages of squash vine borer caterpillars. These pests had drilled several holes into the pumpkin, which didn’t seem to hamper the pumpkin’s growth but it did cause concern for Lincoln. Some Sevin spray did the trick, keeping the caterpillars away and easing Lincoln’s mind.

As I write this story, the pumpkin is still on the vine and still growing. I’m eager to see if the wounds from the caterpillars will heal or not. If they do, perhaps Lincoln can enter it in our local fair. If they don’t, you can bet there will be a very terrific jack-o-lantern on our front porch this Halloween!

It’s pretty amazing how four little seeds provided so much backyard fun for the kids – and me. If you want to take a crack at growing your own giant pumpkin, I recommend you check out these two online articles:

- [garden.org/learn/articles/view/290/](http://garden.org/learn/articles/view/290/)
- [modernfarmer.com/2015/10/how-to-grow-a-giant-pumpkin/](http://modernfarmer.com/2015/10/how-to-grow-a-giant-pumpkin/)

Each of them covers tips for soil prep, fertilizing, and how to get seeds (without traveling to the Canfield County Fair). If you’re the type that just dives right in and skips the research, at least heed this one very important tip: Leave plenty of growing room. The circumference can increase 4 to 6 inches every 24 hours!

