



Stormwater-Friendly Lawn and Garden Care

Pollutants of concern: pesticides, fertilizers

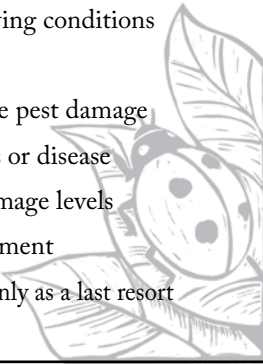


Selecting plants that are suited to your area can save on water, fertilizers, and pesticides and thereby protect water quality. In addition, well-suited plants will withstand common disease and insect problems far better than those introduced from elsewhere, eliminating the need for special care and extensive watering.

Start with a soil test. A simple soil test tells you if you need to fertilize, what type and how much you need. A clay soil may need organic matter worked into it, not fertilizer. Acidic soil may need lime added to it. (Agricultural limestone is a natural mineral and does not pollute water. However, it should be used and handled according to instructions.) Understanding your soil composition saves you money and saves the environment from unnecessary chemicals.

Practices related to stormwater-friendly landscape maintenance include:

- Use pest-resistant plants
- Match plants with growing conditions
- Keep plants healthy
- Time activities to reduce pest damage
- Watch for signs of pests or disease
- Establish acceptable damage levels
- Use the least-toxic treatment
- Use chemical pesticides only as a last resort



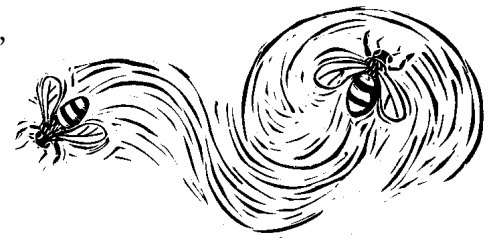
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) focuses on natural pest controls, such as natural predators. IPM accepts pests as a natural part of the environment but seeks to keep them at a tolerable level. For landscape maintenance, the IPM practitioner watches the landscape to promote optimum growing conditions for the desired plants (since healthy plants are less susceptible to pests) and to eliminate conditions favorable to the pests. IPM also seeks to maintain natural controls such as beneficial insects.

When pest controls are needed, the pest and its stage of development are identified and the least toxic control possible is used. Pesticides are used only as a last resort and only in ways that maximize effectiveness and minimize harm.

Consider the site. If it is near a water body (including a drainage ditch), vegetable garden, children's play area or public place, select a pest management technique that minimizes harm to these sensitive areas.

Evaluate your actions. Keep records of your observations, decisions made, actions taken and the results of those actions. Make adjustments as needed.

Encourage beneficial insects. The average square yard of garden contains over 1,000 insects—an average acre contains four million bugs! These numbers suggest that the vast majority of insects are not pests, but actually perform many vital functions. Insects work to build the soil, decompose organic matter, pollinate crops, eat weeds, produce products such as honey and silk, and provide food for other insects, birds, and reptiles. Beneficial insects consume large numbers of pest insects. To keep your insects healthy, plant a variety of flowering plants that provide food and shelter for them.



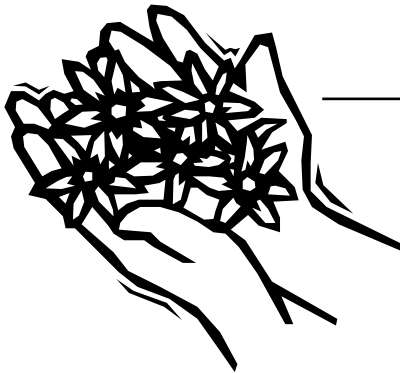
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Many pesticides are indiscriminate and will kill beneficial insects and organisms as well as pests. Use pesticides only after natural pest control has been proven inadequate. Pesticides are chemicals that control or kill undesirable organisms which include herbicides (for controlling weeds), insecticides (insects) and fungicides (fungus). When not applied properly—in strict accordance with label directions or precautions—pesticides may kill plants and animals, trigger allergic reactions, or cause chronic health problems in humans. In addition, continuous use of certain pesticides may produce resistance over time, requiring the use of increasingly toxic substances.



When cleaning up, sweep all fertilizers, soil and vegetation off sidewalks and driveways. Hosing washes them into storm drains where they flow directly into our waterways.

Common-sense techniques and least-toxic products benefit all of us. The water quality in our rivers depends upon the wise use of our land and resources by communities and individuals alike.



For more information consider these resources:

Lane OSU Extension Service

www.extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP)

www.pesticide.org

Local Nurseries

Grow Smart, Grow Safe gardener's guide to safe yard care products: www.growsmartgrowsafe.org



Stormwater Management Program

www.happyrivers.org

or call **541-682-2739**