

Water Quality Guidelines for Landscaping and Gardening

This brochure is intended to explain the water quality issues regarding landscaping and gardening and the recommended procedures that should be followed by both gardeners and landscapers when conducting these activities.

Landscape and garden maintenance activities can be significant contributors to water quality problems. When conducting these activities you should follow the simple guidelines in this brochure to prevent discharges from entering the storm drain system where they flow untreated to the ocean.



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This brochure has been prepared to inform gardeners and landscapers of appropriate practices for landscape and garden maintenance activities in Yuba County in order to protect the water quality in storm drains, channels, creeks, rivers and ultimately the ocean.

General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Prevent erosion of slopes by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.
- Plant native vegetation to reduce amount of water, fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides needed.

Garden & Lawn Maintenance

- Do not over water. Use irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro spray systems. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.
- Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning wastes into the street, gutter or storm drains; instead dispose of waste by composting or at a permitted landfill or as green waste through your local recycling program.
- Use slow release fertilizers to minimize leaching and use organic fertilizers such as compost, peat, and mulch whenever possible.

Garden & Lawn Maintenance continued

- Read labels and use only as directed. Do not over apply pesticides or fertilizers. Spot apply, rather than blanketing an entire area.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers when rain is forecast.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result in the deterioration of containers and packaging.
- Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Dispose of empty containers in the garbage.
- Take unwanted pesticides to a household hazardous waste collection site to be recycled. Call Yuba Sutter Disposal at (530) 743-6933 for site location.
- If fertilizer is spilled on pavement or sidewalks, "dry" clean these surfaces before applying irrigation water.

Pesticide Alternatives

- When available, use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides and use pesticides specifically designed to control your pest.
- Design and use an Integrated Pest Management Plan that includes:
 - a. Physical Controls - caulking holes, barriers, hand picking, and traps.
 - b. Biological Controls - Predatory insects and bacteria insecticides.
 - c. Chemical Controls - Last resort. Use less toxic products such as dehydrating dusts, insecticide soaps, boric acid powder, horticultural oils, or pyrethrin-based insecticides.
- For more information on pesticide disposal, refer to our brochure entitled "Safe Use & Disposal of Pesticides" To obtain copies of our brochures, call our office at (530)749-5420 or visit our website at www.co.yuba.ca.us