Pesticides and Fertilizers

BUY USE and DISPOSE of lawn care products wisely to help PROTECT OUR WATER.

Lawn care products can help your lawn and garden look great, but these products can also harm our water if homeowners don't use and dispose of them properly. Using lawn products incorrectly can damage the environment and cause dangerous chemicals to enter Oregon's streams and rivers. Follow these three steps for wise use of lawn and garden chemicals, including fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Ask your landscaper to follow these steps too.

BUY – Think before you buy.

- Before purchasing chemical products, get your **soil tested** to determine what your lawn and garden needs.Visit the bottom of the page for links related to Soil Testing
- Buy the **right product**, and **only the amount you need**.
- **Consider alternatives**, especially alternatives to pesticides. Pesticides are commonly detected in Oregon streams, and may endanger future generations.
- Metro's Grow Smart, Grow Safe ranks more than 1,000 pest controls and fertilizers from lowest to highest hazard for people, pets and the planet. This consumer guide is also packed with expert tips for the most effective, least toxic lawn and garden care. Click here for the Grow Smart Grow Safe guide that include recipes to **make your own natural lawn products** that are safe and effective against common garden pests .
- **Attend a natural gardening workshop**. Metro and Oregon State University Extension Service offer free classes to help you grow healthier plants while reducing the use of chemicals in your garden. Click here for details.

USE – Use only what you need.

- **Apply only what your lawn and garden needs**. Over application can kill beneficial soil microbes and insects.
- **Read the label carefully**, and follow directions exactly. By their nature, many pesticides may pose some

risk to humans, animals. The pesticide label is your guide to using pesticides safely and effectively. Click here for help with understanding pesticide labels.
- Using lawn products incorrectly, especially pesticides, can harm water, the environment, and human health.

DISPOSE – Not down the drain.

Don't dump leftover products down the drain — that harms water quality. Choose one of these options instead:

- If you have a small amount of excess chemical, **apply to your yard and garden according to the label**.
- Give leftover products to a **neighbor**.
- Bring products to a **Metro neighborhood hazardous waste collection event.** For an event near you, call Metro at (503) 234-3000 or click here.
- Bring products to a **Metro hazardous waste facility**. Metro operates two hazardous waste facilities that accept used pesticides and hazardous household chemicals. The facilities are located at 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland, OR and 2001 Washington St., Oregon City, OR. Click here for details.

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Web Links

Oregon State University-Soil Testing GuidanceWSU-Soil Testing for Home Gardeners

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