

# pesticides...

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### PESTICIDE GUIDELINES

#### START WITH PREVENTION

- Maintain healthy soil with compost and mulch.
- Select pest-resistant plants and put them in the sun/shade and soil conditions they like.
- Use a variety of plants, so if pests attack, your whole garden isn't at risk.
- Mow higher. Most grasses should be mowed to 2-3 inches in height. Taller grass has more leaf surface and deeper roots and eventually chokes out many weeds.
- Clean out diseased plants so disease does not spread.
- Pull weeds before they go to seed and spread.
- Remove dead plants to reduce hiding places for pests.

#### ACCEPT A LITTLE DAMAGE - GIVE NATURE TIME TO WORK

- Learn to accept a few pests, as long as they are not harmful to the general landscape. Natural predators often bring pests under control; they just need time to work.

#### IF YOU MUST USE PESTICIDES...

- Carefully read and follow the pesticide product label instructions. Avoid overusing these products.
- When you have a small problem area, treat just that location, not the entire yard.

### BE SMART WITH YOUR LAWN CARE

Spring time can bring a wide assortment of bugs and weeds that can destroy the beauty of our landscaping. A common remedy to this problem is the use of pesticides. Though some pesticides can be extremely useful in reducing the population of harmful insects, others can damage the environment. Pesticides can inadvertently kill living things that they are not intended to. Pesticide chemicals can also be very destructive when they infiltrate our waterways. This can occur when the pesticide is absorbed by soil, is accidentally spilled into water, when water run-off is contaminated, or through "pesticide drift." Pesticide drift happens when sprayed particles move or drift to another area. In waterways, millions of fish are killed each year by pesticides and other aquatic life suffer the consequences of pesticide contamination.

On a smaller scale, in your own yard, there is a good chance the pesticides you use will have unintentional effects on other living things. An example of this is when a homeowner sprays their yard to eliminate a destructive insect, but ends up destroying a beneficial one as well. With the risks associated with frequent pesticide use, be sure your need is critical before applying these chemicals. On-going pest problems are often an indication that your lawn or garden is not getting what it needs to stay healthy, and the best solution is to correct the underlying problem. A holistic (or integrated pest management) approach is the most effective way to manage pests.



On Call. On Time. On Target.