

# Pesticides

## Best Management Practices for the Weed Killer



### Pesticides in our waterways?

Did you know it has been estimated that an average acre of a well maintained urban lawn receives an annual input of five to seven pounds of pesticides. Some of that pesticide gets washed away by rain or lawn watering into the street and into storm drains. Did you know that storm drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants? Whatever enters the catch basins in our parking lots and roads goes untreated into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes! Pesticides are entering our waterways, polluting our rivers and lakes and harming our wildlife.

## What Can You Do?

- Maintain a healthy lawn by mowing frequently with sharp blades set a 2½ to 3 inches
- Practice hand-weeding
- Use mulches to reduce weeds
- Spot treat weed and insect areas
- Evaluate if a pesticide is necessary
- Learn to live with a few weeds!



### If you determine a pesticide is necessary... REMEMBER:

- Don't buy more than you need
- Only apply what is necessary
- Do not apply in the rain (unless specified)
- Never apply on bare ground or near wells, ponds, streams, etc.
- Never dump excess pesticides on the ground or into the storm drain
- Consider sharing leftovers (in their original containers) with neighbors
- When a container is empty, rinse three times (each time pouring into a sink)
- Use a Clean Sweep Program to dispose of pesticides and containers properly

## Consider Integrated Pest Management

A decision making process for making process for managing pests and the damage they cause  
Is you contractor using Integrated Pest Management?

- Does the landscaper spend time just looking at the lawn and garden?
- Does he/she ask you about your lawn's history?
- Does he/she suggest different plants for problem areas?
- Does the landscaper spray insecticides on a regular schedule as a preventative without scouting or a history of infestation?

