



R-4 Garden Care Activities



Garden activities may contribute pollutants via soil erosion, green waste, fertilizer and pesticide use. Plant and garden care activities such as landscape maintenance, fertilization, and pesticide application have the potential to discharge significant quantities of pollutants to the storm drain system. Non-vegetated surfaces may allow for significant erosion leading to high sediment loads. Other pollutants such as pesticides may adsorb onto the soil particles and be transported off site. Excess fertilizer and pesticide pollutants from over application may be carried to the storm drain by dissolving in irrigation runoff or rainwater. Green wastes may also contain organic matter and may have adsorbed fertilizers and pesticides.

Excessive irrigation is often the most significant factor in home and garden care activities. Pollutants may dissolve in irrigation water then be transported to the storm drain, or particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the irrigation flow and carried to the storm drain. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheet are used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.

Think before conducting garden care activities. Remember - The ocean starts at your front door.

Required Activities:

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect seasonal water needs
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Read the labels and follow directions to avoid improper use. Do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain.
- Properly clean up and dispose of spills or gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or soils. If possible, return the spilled material to the container for future use.
- Lawn and garden care products must be stored in closed labeled containers, in covered areas, or off-ground and under protective tarps.
- Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed at a household hazardous waste center.
- Cover non vegetated surfaces to prevent erosion.

Recommended Activities:

- Utilize xeriscaping and use of drought and insect resistant landscaping.
- Cultivate your garden often to control weeds.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM). Planting pest repelling plants (e.g. Marigolds) or using pest eating insects (e.g. ladybugs) may reduce the need for pesticides.
- Do not leave food (human or pet) outside overnight.
- Remove fruit and garden waste.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

County of Orange, OC Watershed

Main: (714) 955-0600/24hr Water Pollution Discharge Hotline 1-877-89-SPILL

visit our website at: www.ocwatersheds.com