

YARD SMART

Preserving Healthy Watersheds

What is a Watershed?

Watersheds are basin-like landform that channels water from rainfall and melting snow to larger bodies of water.

Why Keep Watersheds Clean?

Keeping watersheds clean is important for the health of humans, animals, and the earth.

- * Pesticide use have been linked with various forms of cancer and other serious health issues
- * 70% of pollution in our streams, rivers, and lakes are carried there by stormwater
- * The use of synthetic ammonia fertilizers can contaminate groundwater and kill beneficial microorganisms in the soil

"I pledge to use ecologically-smart practices in my yard." I believe these sustainable yard practices will help keep our community healthy, naturally beautiful, and safe from harmful chemicals, unnecessary pollution, and waste. I will also try to educate others in my community about the benefits of these practices.



Ways to be Yard Smart and Preserve Healthy Watersheds

Try safer alternatives to pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) and synthetic ammonium based fertilizers

WEED CONTROL

- Use corn gluten pre-emergent weed control (in early spring, late fall)
- Hand-weed and/or weed-whacker
- Sprinkle grass seed on bare spots; build thick turf to discourage weed seeds
- Spot control with organic products (vinegar/lemon spray, hot water/vinegar)
- Replace turf grass (maintained grass) with native plants



Rain Gardens can filter out pollutants, recharge groundwater, and reduce stormwater flow.

SYNTHETIC AMMONIUM FERTILIZER ALTERNATIVES

- Leave grass clippings on lawn
- Organic fertilizers
- Kelp extract to boost soil micronutrients
- Compost or liquid compost (spread 1/2" thick) to replace soil life depleted by chemicals
- Microbial inoculant to replace soil life depleted by chemicals
- Replace turf with native plants
- Over seed with self-fertilizing Dutch clover

PEST CONTROL

- Use insecticidal soap
- Use garlic oil as a pest control product
- Hot pepper repellent
- Use neem tree products as a pest control product
- Use diatomaceous earth as a pest control product
- Use traps on pests
- Use milky spore for Japanese beetle grubs
- Use nematodes (tiny soil worms) for grubs and Japanese beetles
- Spiked sandals (spikes of Death) to kill grubs



FUNGUS CONTROL

- Sulfur fungicides
- Baking soda
- Copper products
- Water infrequently and deeply during cool times of day so roots penetrate soil deeply