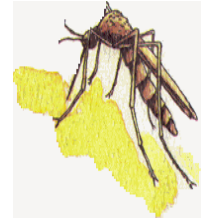


# Landscape Maintenance Techniques For Pest Reduction



## Why is it Important to Reduce Pesticide Usage?

When it rains, pesticides that are used in landscapes, gardens, and around your home, are washed off plants, soils, and grass. This stormwater runs off the landscape and flows to the nearest storm drain, which ultimately carries the water to a local creek or the Bay, without treatment. Even when applied according to label directions, pesticides make their way into our waterways, air, rain and fog. Just a small amount of pesticide can be lethal to marine life, birds, and other life forms. For example, just one granule or seed treated with Diazinon, a common household pesticide, is enough to kill a small bird. Minimizing our use of pesticides in landscape maintenance is important to help protect water quality, aquatic life, and our own health.

## How to Keep Your Home Pest-Free and Pesticide Free

Commonly used pesticides can be harmful to people, pets, and the environment. Studies show that the most commonly used pesticides are the ones most likely to cause water pollution. More than half of California pesticide use is in urban areas; by gardeners, and pest control professionals in and around schools, businesses, and homes. Try to keep your garden healthy and your home pest-free without resorting to chemical pesticides.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Don't use pesticides as the first line of defense, consider them the last resort.
- Hire a Green Gardener who is trained to use alternative approaches to pesticides. Visit [www.mywatershedwatch.org/greengardener/ggindex.html](http://www.mywatershedwatch.org/greengardener/ggindex.html) for a list of approved Santa Clara Valley Green Gardeners.
- Read the Pest Control Fact Sheets for tips on safer and effective alternatives for preventing and managing a variety of pest problems in your home and garden. These fact sheets are available at two Cupertino nurseries: Yamagami's and Summerwinds, both on S. DeAnza Blvd., just south of Hwy. 85. Nursery staff has received special training on pest control and can guide customers in using an "Integrated Pest Management" approach to resolve their bug problems. Fact sheets and more information are also available at: [www.mywatershedwatch.org](http://www.mywatershedwatch.org) and [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)



### IF YOU MUST USE PESTICIDES:

- Identify the pest and the afflicted plant, and then choose a product labeled for use on that pest and plant. Not all pesticides are effective against all pests.
- Avoid aerosols. They disperse chemicals in a way that significantly increases the risk of exposure to unintentional targets, including beneficial insects, birds, pets, you and your family.
- Choose the least-toxic product available. Baits and traps are safer options.
- Spot treat whenever possible.
- Buy ready-to-use products instead of concentrates. An undiluted pesticide that requires mixing is more hazardous than one that is already diluted. And, ready-to-use products avoid the use of measuring and mixing that could result in spills.
- Read the label and use only the amount recommended to do the job. More is not better.

