

STORMWATER  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
(BMP's)



LANDSCAPING,  
GARDENING  
& PEST CONTROL



*Safe Environmental Habits and  
Methods for:*

- LANDSCAPERS
- HOMEOWNERS
- GARDENERS

The City of  
**Columbus**

STORMWATER MANAGER  
2424 14TH STREET  
COLUMBUS, NE 68601

This brochure is one of a series of brochures describing storm water pollution prevention measures. For more information about ways to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit our website: <http://www.columbusne.us/Index.aspx?NID=292>



# PROBLEMS

## STORMWATER POLLUTION

Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to storm water pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over-watering, and garden chemicals become part of the pollution that winds its way through streets and storm drains before entering our waterways.

Poorly functioning sprinklers and over-watering, for example, wastes water and increases the number of pollutants flowing into storm drains.

Pollution in storm water contaminates our local streams, harbors, and the Long Island Sound. Storm water pollution results in closures of beaches and shell-fishing areas, harms aquatic life, causes algal blooms, and increases the risk of land flooding by clogging catch basins and storm sewers.

Fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides that may be washed off lawns and landscaped areas not only provide nutrients to lawns and kill garden invaders and weeds, they also harm beneficial insects, poison fish, and contaminate water bodies.

Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown into the street or catch basins are also water polluters. These wastes clog catch basins, increasing the risk of flooding. As these “green wastes” decompose, they use up oxygen in water that fish and other aquatic life need to survive.



# SOLUTIONS

City of Columbus is partnering with landscaping businesses and residents to help promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) used on landscaping sites to keep pollution out of our storm drains and to protect our waterways.

Included in this brochure is valuable information on important BMPs. We hope you find it useful and educate others on how to create an efficient and environmentally safe landscaping site.

## General Landscaping Tips

Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.

Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.

Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.

Use native or drought tolerant plants.

## Garden & Lawn Maintenance

Do not blow or rake leaves and grass clippings into the street or storm drains.

Adjust your sprinkler heads so they water your lawn and plants and not sidewalks or pavement.

Do not water when it rains since it wastes water and may create additional runoff from your property.

Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.

Do not over-fertilize and do not fertilize near streams or other water bodies.

# Pesticides Alternatives

The “chemicals-only” approach to pest control is only a temporary fix. A more commonsense approach is need for a long-term solution. It is called Integrated Pest Management. Plan you IPM strategy in this order:

### A) Physical Controls

- ◇ Caulking holes
- ◇ Barriers
- ◇ Hand picking
- ◇ Traps

### B) Biological Controls

- ◇ Predatory insects
- ◇ Bacterial insecticides

### C) Chemical Controls—Your Last Resort Use these least toxic products:

- ◇ Dehydrating dusts (e.g., silica gel)
- ◇ Insecticide soaps
- ◇ Boric acid powder
- ◇ Horticultural oils
- ◇ Pyrethrum-based insecticides



## If You Must Use Pesticides . . .

Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label.

Read labels! Use only as directed.

Household toxics, such as pesticides, cleaners, and motor oil, can pollute water bodies if disposed of in storm drains. Rinse empty pesticide containers and use rinse water as you would the product. Empty containers may be recycled or discarded in the trash.