

IDENTIFY THE WORST POISONS - FIND THE BEST ALTERNATIVES!

The National Pesticide Information Center provides fact sheets on all pesticides and lists natural and minimal-risk alternatives. NPIC's website is easy and fun to use; you can also e-mail or call them with any inquiry.

- Website: npic.orst.edu
- E-mail: npic@ace.orst.edu
- Phone: 1 (800) 858-7378

LEARN MORE ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT!

The U. of California offers a terrific one-stop resource on IPM. Their "Quick Tips Library" includes garden and lawn care advice, lists synthetic pesticide alternatives, and details info on every kind of critter (beneficial or pest) and every plant or crop.

- imp.ucanr.edu/QT/index.html

SKIP CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS!

There are many easy and safe soil-care options - and they're often cheaper and more effective than toxic chemicals.

Explore the handy guides at these sites:

- epa.gov/nutrientpollution
- gardeners.com/how-to
- planetnatural.com/organic-gardening-guru

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DON'T FLUSH IT!

VOLUME 3: LAWN & GARDEN POISONS!



Pesticides and chemical fertilizers can run off your property into natural waters and wells, endangering human health and poisoning the environment.

Fortunately, there are many ways
YOU can protect Vermont's waters!
SEE INSIDE FOR SOLUTIONS!

THE BAD GUYS

Pesticides - insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodent poisons - are **hazardous materials** that kill helpful plants and cause death and deformities in birds, fish, frogs, bees, and bats. In humans, they can cause birth defects, cancer, male infertility, Parkinson's disease, and other illnesses.

Commercial fertilizers feed toxic blue-green algae in Vermont lakes. Those soupy blooms are not just ugly but dangerous! They wipe out fish and can cause liver and brain damage in humans and pets.

When these chemicals run off your property into streams, groundwater, public storm-water systems, and wells - they wreak havoc.



Can't septic tanks and public sewer plants eliminate these toxic chemicals? Nope! They can only pass them on to soil and water!

SOLUTIONS

Note: The tips below are just a few from Integrated Pest Management, the way to control pests that's advocated by the U.S. EPA and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. See other side for links to hundreds more, specific and easy-to-follow tips.

1. Dispose of chemicals properly - never put into toilet, sink, storm drain, or driveway! Vermont's 16 solid waste management districts/alliances offer safe disposal of unwanted hazardous materials. To find your local waste entity, visit dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/local-districts. If you live in a town that manages its own waste, check with your town clerk or transfer station to find disposal options.

Each waste management entity offers drop-off locations and collection events for these chemicals.

2. Manage conditions so pests aren't drawn to, or don't thrive on, your property. Example: Drain standing water to eliminate mosquitos.

3. Encourage pests' natural, biological enemies. Example: Spread milky spore in lawn to get rid of Japanese beetles.

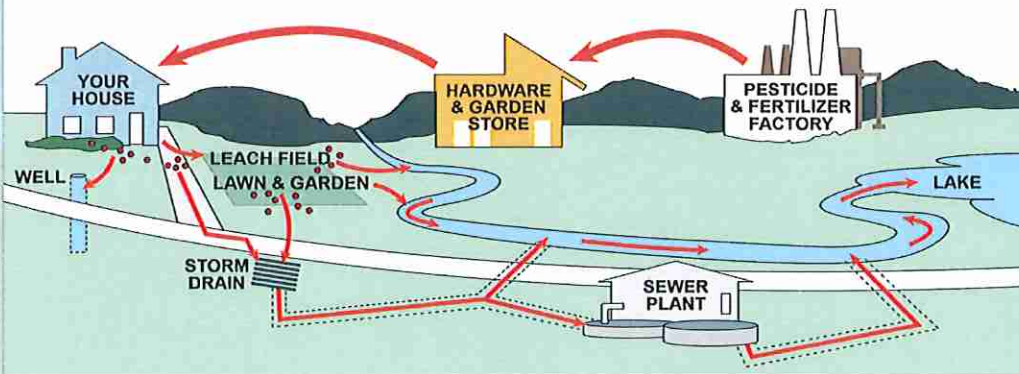
4. Physically, mechanically, discourage plant and animal pests. Example: Weed by hand; use mousetraps instead of poison.

5. Use natural alternatives; choose products with least impact. Read the label before you buy; use enclosed bait stations, not sprays.

6. Build soil with organic materials. Naturally healthy soil helps lawns and gardens grow - and resists pests, too. Use compost; buy fertilizers formulated to soak in, not run off.

7. Control runoff. Keep pesticides and fertilizers off sidewalk or driveway; leave a buffer zone of untreated grass or wild vegetation around lawns and gardens.

IT'S UP TO YOU TO BREAK THE TOXIC CHAIN!



Discover more easy alternatives to toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers! Visit the websites listed on the other side.