



Background

We all enjoy healthy, beautiful lawns and gardens, and fresh vegetables. When insects or plant diseases attack, we want to fight back but the pesticides we often use can be harmful to the environment, people, and pets. Here are some things to keep in mind:

Pesticides are any products we use to kill or control bothersome plants or insects. They can be powders or sprays.

Swallowing, breathing, or touching these products can be harmful. Some products can hurt the nervous system or irritate the eyes and skin. Others can cause cancer or upset hormone balances.

Although products are meant to kill pests, they can also harm or kill dogs, cats, and birds.

What You Can Do:

- Use the right product for fighting the specific pest
- Use products sparingly by treating only trouble spots
- Read the labels that tell you how to use the product
- Use the correct amount, and no more than is recommended
- Follow instructions for proper mixing, protective clothing, use, storage, and disposal
- Remove toys, pet bowls, and other items before treating area
- Know when it is safe for children and pets to return to area
- Observe wait times for eating treated fruits and vegetables

Set Goals

Choose plants that will grow and resist disease in your area.

Don't try to get rid of all insects and weeds. It's impossible!

Change your gardening methods: mow your grass high and water it properly, and use natural enemies such as ladybugs to control aphids.





Benefits:

- Less exposure means less chance of harm to you and your family
- Lowers the chance of accidental poisonings
- Protects the environment: outdoor products that run into ponds, creeks, or other water sources can make drinking water unsafe and kill fish and birds.
- Using fewer products will also save you money



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Fight Yard and Garden Pests

Keep it Green
Keep it Safe

While Protecting Your Family

