

# News Release

Date: July 21, 2000

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For immediate release

## GARDENERS URGED TO USE CARE WITH PESTICIDES

With summer gardening season in full swing, it's more important than ever for gardeners to use care when applying pesticides, fertilizers and weed control products.

“Proper use and disposal of yard and garden chemicals is essential to the health of our local creeks and waterways,” says Terri Wegener, Senior Engineer with the Sacramento County Water Resources Department.

“Water which flows through the County’s storm drain system goes directly into creeks and rivers without treatment, so pesticides and other garden chemicals can end up in local creeks, even when properly used. Small amounts of these chemicals can have a big impact on our creeks,” Wegener said. “We measure pollutants in parts per trillion.”

The County Water Resources Department offers the following tips to gardeners:

- Purchase household and garden products that are “least toxic” to the environment. Read and follow label directions carefully.

- Sweep, rather than hose, garden rubbish from sidewalks and patios and dispose of it in the trash can.
- When possible, avoid using pesticides or herbicides on your yard and garden. Garden organically or use alternatives to chemicals instead.
- Do not over-water lawns and gardens. Over-watering can flush large quantities of pesticides and fertilizer directly into storm drains.
- Never dispose of pesticides or other garden chemicals by dumping in the storm drain or gutter. Find the nearest recycling center site to get rid of these hazardous products.

Residents interested in using alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals. will find helpful information through the UC Master Gardeners Program. Visit their web site at:  
[www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

Sacramento County provides drainage and stormwater management services for most of the urban areas of unincorporated Sacramento County and Citrus Heights. The County monitors pollutants that are often found in stormwater runoff and strives to keep Sacramento area creeks and rivers clean. Citizens can find out more about the threat to rivers from urban stormwater runoff by contacting the County at 874-8366 or by checking out the Sacramento Stormwater Management Program web site at [www.sactostormwater.org](http://www.sactostormwater.org)