



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.....KEITH DEVORE, Director
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Phone: (916) 874-6851
827 SEVENTH STREET, ROOM 301 Fax: (916) 874-8693
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

WARREN H. HARADA, Administrator
Public Works Agency
STEVE PEDRETTI, Director
County Engineering & Administration
ROBERT F. SHANKS, Director
Water Quality
JOHN W. NEWTON, Director
General Services
KEITH DEVORE, Director
Water Resources
TOM ZLOTKOWSKI, Director
Transportation
DAVID PELSER, Director
Waste Management and Recycling

NEWS RELEASE

Date: August 7, 2003
Contact: Lucinda Serynek, Communication and Media Officer
Phone: (916) 874-8004
Pager: (888) 650-4907

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“GOOD GUYS” FOR GARDENS – CLEANER WATER FOR CREEKS & STREAMS

Sacramento, CA – Summer brings warm sunshine, fields of flowers, vines bursting with tomatoes and, of course, those destructive little pests and bugs! But did you know some are actually "good guys" in the garden? For example, antlions really do feast on ants, and lacewings have a voracious appetite for aphids. Helpful bugs can act as alternatives to chemical pesticides. In fact, studies have shown that the use of chemical pesticides can actually cause outbreaks of pests by eliminating these natural predators.

Implementing environmentally safe alternatives will help reduce reliance on pesticide use. Consider using these “good guys” that can be found at many nurseries. Ladybugs, both adults and larvae, are most commonly known to feast on aphids. But they also prey on many other pests such as soft-scale insects, mealybugs and spider mites; and they devour the eggs of beetles and borers.

Using these “good guys” in the garden instead of pesticides also helps keep our creeks and streams cleaner. Runoff from landscaping often runs into the storm drain where water goes untreated to our waterways.

If you must use pesticides, consider the following tips:

- Identify your pest problem and choose the least toxic pesticide that targets your pest and achieves the results you want
- Determine the right amount of pesticide to purchase. Purchasing exactly the amount you need for the application eliminates the need for storing unused pesticides and saves you money
- When you apply any type of pesticide, be sure to read the label and apply it properly
- Use spot treatments whenever possible
- Avoid over watering after applying pesticides. Never let pesticide runoff flow into storm drains

“Pesticides should only be used when you have an identified pest problem and as a last alternative”, says Cecilia Jensen, senior engineer and manager of the Sacramento County Stormwater

Program. She stresses, “Reducing the use of pesticides to the greatest extent possible will help ensure our creeks and rivers stay healthy and clean.”

Improper disposal of pesticides can pollute our local waterways. Sacramento County residents in the unincorporated area, the city of Sacramento, the city of Folsom, or the city of Citrus Heights are encouraged to take unused pesticides to one of these locations for disposal.

Sacramento County North Area Recovery Station

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Area
4450 Roseville Road
Sacramento, CA 95660
Customer Service: 916-875-5555
www.sacgreenteam.com/hazardous/residents.htm

Sacramento Transfer & Recycling Station

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Area
8491 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone: 916-379-0500
www.pwsacramento.com/solidwaste/household.html

For more information about pesticide substitutes, visit the UC Master Gardeners Web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.