

# SUMMER E-NEWSLETTER – PESTICIDE USE AND WATER QUALITY

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## Don't Run Off!

### *Tips to Keep Water in Your Yard*

Harmful runoff can occur when water (either rain or irrigation) comes into contact with and washes pesticides, soil, or other products used around your home into storm drains and waterways. You can help reduce harmful runoff and protect local waterbodies by using less-toxic products and slowing the flow of pollutants from your yard and garden.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

A simple way to help keep pesticides out of the local waterbodies is to reduce the amount of chemicals you apply to your yard and garden. To do this, while managing pest problems effectively, you can use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which focuses on low- to no-pesticide methods of pest control, such as:

- **Prevention** – Prevent pests from becoming a problem in the first place. For more information about pest prevention, check out the spring newsletter!
- **Alternatives** – Use alternatives to pesticides for pest control, such as traps, physical removal, natural deterrents, and/or natural predators.
- **Pesticides as a Last Resort** – Treat pesticides as a last resort, and use the least toxic options available. Discover more [information about less-toxic pesticide options here](#).



## LEARN MORE!

Visit the [UC Integrated Pest Management Program website](#).

If you are unsure about how to safely manage your pest problem, it may be time to hire a professional to take care of the problem for you. More information about [hiring IPM professionals can be found here](#).

## Water-Conscious Landscaping

If pesticides must be used, be sure to follow these landscaping tips to help keep water and chemicals in your yard and out of our creeks and rivers.

- **Avoid Overwatering** – Overwatering and overspray will lead to increased runoff which can carry along the pesticides you apply. Find more [information about how to irrigate responsibly here](#).
- **Porous Surfaces** – Use gravel, stones, or pavers to allow water to soak into the soil in areas where you don't have plants. Consider adding mulch to your garden to keep your soil moist, reduce evaporation, and restrict weed growth. Check out [these additional landscaping tips!](#)
- **Plant Native** – Plant vegetation that is naturally found in California ecosystems and requires little to no watering. This reduces the need for irrigation, as well as the potential for harmful runoff. Find native plants for your garden by [using this Calscape tool](#) or contact [Master Gardeners of El Dorado County](#) or the [El Dorado County Chapter California Native Plant Society](#).



- **Timing** – Wet and windy weather can spread pesticides to unintended places. Be sure not to apply pesticides (especially sprays) on windy days or right before a rainstorm. Learn more about [safely applying pesticides here](#).

For more information about how El Dorado County is working toward improving local water quality, please visit the [Tahoe Planning and Stormwater Management Homepage](#) or contact us at:

Phone: (530) 573-7906

Email: [stormwater@edcgov.us](mailto:stormwater@edcgov.us)

