

Read the Label First!

PROTECT YOUR GARDEN



Sooner or later, an insect or disease could attack your houseplants, garden vegetables, lawn, shrubs, or flowers. If you use a pesticide or other garden product, you need to know that some garden products can harm plants, people, or the environment if not used correctly.

Follow These Tips When Selecting and Using A Garden Product

✓ Know Your Pest

Knowing the problem is the first step toward solving it. Not all bugs are bad – some are harmless and others help fight pests. Identifying the problem lets you find the best way to prevent and manage pests.

✓ Find the Product that Solves the Problem

All products do not work on every pest. Labels tell you what a product is meant to do and how it should be applied. Choose a product that is labeled for your specific pest and consider EPA-registered biopesticides.

✓ Buy the Right Amount for Your Needs

The product label tells you how much to use to treat a problem. Buy only what you need. Some products might not work as well if stored for long periods of time. A larger size is not a good value if you can't use it.

✓ Pay Attention to Warnings

Follow directions about wearing gloves or protective clothing. Understand when and how to apply the product and when it is safe for people or pets to reenter treated areas. Note how long to wait before picking fruits and vegetables.

✓ Use the Product the Right Way

Product labels tell you how to safely use products for best results. Use only the amount indicated on the label. More is not better and can even harm plants and lawns. If the label tells you to mix a product in another container, use all of the mixture. If you can't use all the mixture, label the new container for use in the future.

✓ Prevent Harm to the Environment

Outdoor lawn and garden products that run into ponds, creeks, or other water supplies can contaminate drinking water and kill fish and birds. Apply products according to label directions to prevent harm to the environment. Never pour lawn and garden products down a drain. If you can't use all of the mixture, pass it on, with the label instructions, to someone who can. If disposal is your only option, contact your local solid waste authority for safe disposal information.



Know Where to Call for Help

- Many labels contain a phone number to call in an emergency.
- Have the phone number for your doctor and local poison control center by the phone.
- Have the product with you when you call. The label contains important information about the product.

