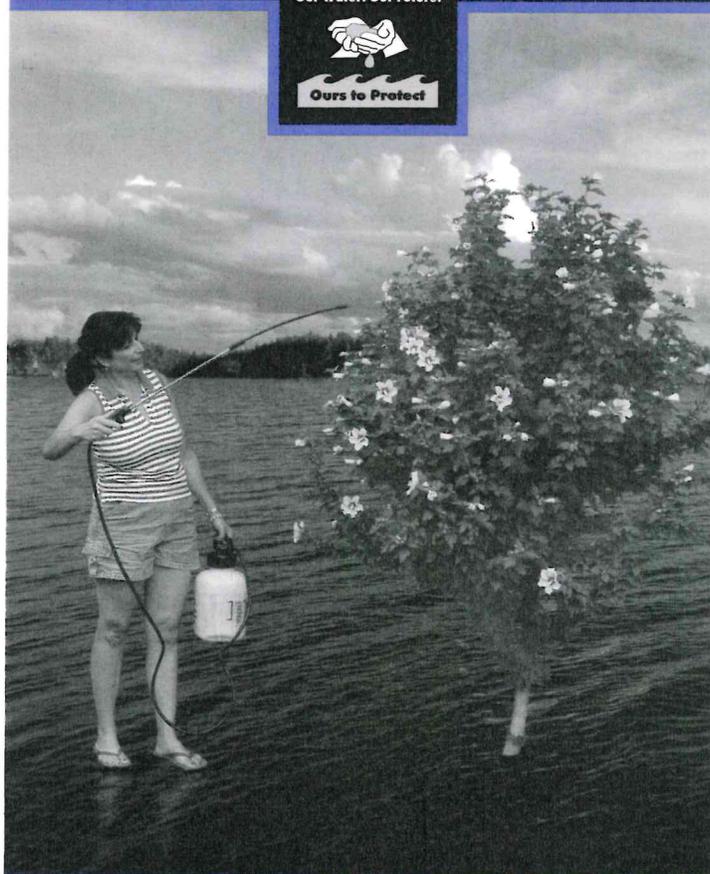


Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests

Our Water. Our Future.



Choose earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from the harmful effects of herbicides and pesticides by choosing earth-friendly landscaping?

The chemicals in herbicides and pesticides pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains and roadside ditches.

Remember, storm drains lead directly to our lakes and rivers.

What can you do? Follow the tips on the back of this card for simple ways you can care for your lawn and garden and help keep our water clean.

Choose earth-friendly landscaping

Go native. Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.

Variety is the spice of life. Use a wide variety of plants to help control pests and minimize the need for pesticides.

Light, frequent watering. The amount of water used is based on the desired look and use for your lawn. If you water, consider light, frequent



watering. Cool the grass with shorter periods of light water during the hotter parts of the day.

Use mulch. Place a thick layer of mulch (e.g., 4 inches) around trees and plants. This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimizes the need for pesticides.

Mow high and return the clippings.

Make your lawn care cheaper and easier by mowing high (3 inches) and leave the clippings for nutrients. A tall lawn promotes root growth and shades out weeds.

Rake it or leave it. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Avoid raking leaves into storm drains or roadside ditches. Try mowing leaves into your lawn—they also make a good fertilizer!

Use less for pests. A healthy lawn needs less pesticide. Proper lawn practices can help hold soil and pollutants in place, minimizing the need for pesticides. If you do use pesticides, spot treat problem areas with ready-to-use products and buy the smallest amount to get the job done.

Find out more at www.semco.org

Brought to you by the Southeast Michigan
Partners for Clean Water

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