

## Yard and garden chemicals can contaminate our community's water

Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers can help control pesky weeds and insects, but every chemical (including organic) has some level of toxicity to non-targeted, beneficial organisms, such as honey bees, earthworms, aquatic bugs, fish and people. Chemicals sprayed on a windy day can drift onto neighboring property or into a creek. Chemicals applied before it rains can wash into a storm drain that connects to a local waterway.

"Please do your part. Carefully read pesticide label precautions and requirements to understand the potential risks to waterways and the wildlife living there," said WES Surface Water Manager Ron Wierenga.

If a spill of a chemical occurs on a sidewalk or driveway, please sweep it up prior to watering or a downpour. It's a small practice that can make a BIG difference to protect both public health and the environment.

For more information concerning the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, go to the National Pesticide Information Center's website at <http://npic.orst.edu/> or go to [clackamas.us/wes](http://clackamas.us/wes).



# THE RIVER STARTS HERE

