

Beyond the Cabinet Door

Of all the poison exposures reported to the Poison Centers:

- ☹️ 92% occur in the home and
- ☹️ 52% occur in children under the age of six.

Properly Store
Your Pesticides



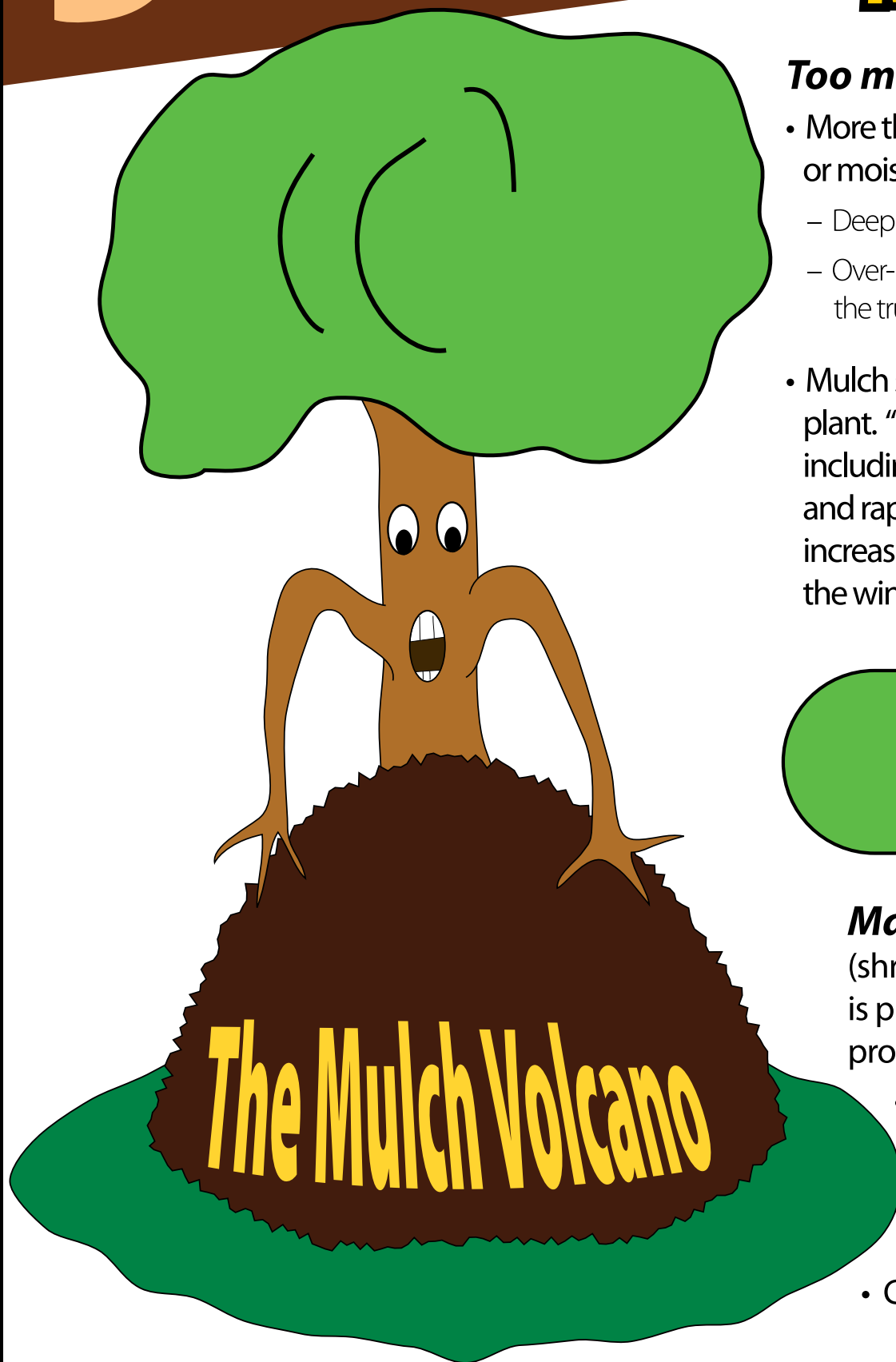
Buy only the amount of pesticides needed.

Mix only the amount of pesticides needed.

Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked "pesticide only" cabinet at least 5 feet off the ground.

BURIED ALIVE

Mulching Incorrectly



Too much mulch:

- More than three inches of mulch will not enhance weed control or moisture moderation, and may harm the root system.
 - Deep layers of mulch smother roots by excluding air from the soil.
 - Over-mulched plants can develop unhealthy, fibrous roots growing from the trunk into mulch. These roots are more susceptible to drying out.
- Mulch should never be piled up against the trunk or stem of any plant. “Mulch volcanoes” create several future health problems, including keeping the bark continuously wet, promoting disease and rapid decay of both the bark and wood of the plant, increasing the plant’s susceptibility to temperature extremes in the winter, and creating an environment for rodent damage.

**For the safety of the plant,
keep all mulch materials away
from the bark of the plant.**

Maintain a two- to three-inch layer of mulch

(shredded bark, aged or composted wood chips) that is pulled away from the trunk or stems. When used properly, mulch:

- Reduces the potential for damage from mowers and weed whips
- Stabilizes soil temperatures
- Helps control weeds
- Conserves moisture

Collateral Damage

Don't apply fertilizer and pesticides to driveways, sidewalks, or roadways.

Fertilizer and pesticide granules that land on hard surfaces can be washed into storm sewers and ultimately our water sources.

To prevent this, sweep it up and put the material back on the lawn or in the shrub bed where you intended it to be.



If it's windy, don't spray.

Even in a light wind, small spray droplets can drift across your property and land where they were not intended—possibly damaging desirable plants.

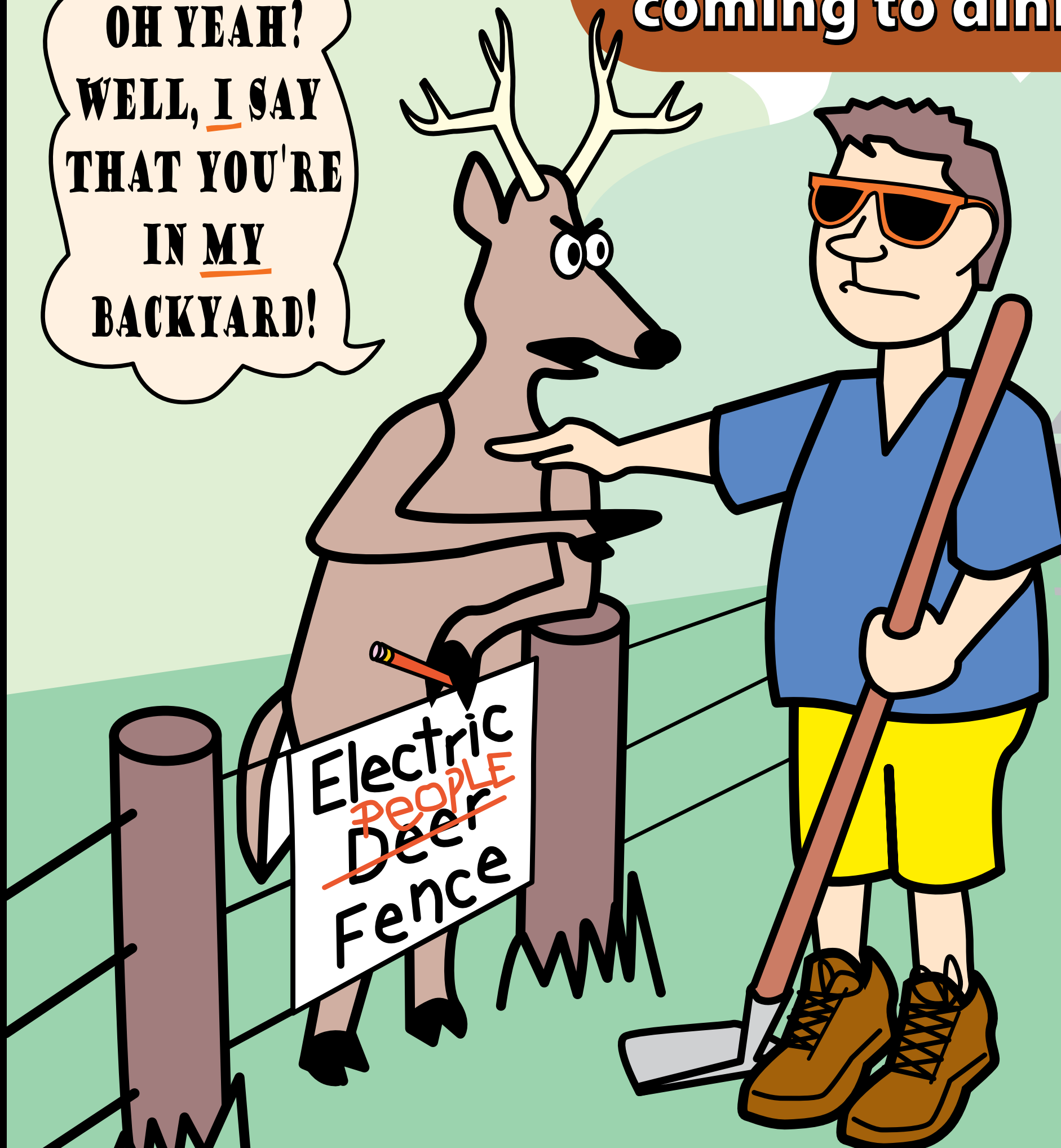


Landscape Bloopers

Design by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Communications and Marketing, in cooperation with Penn State Cooperative Extension.

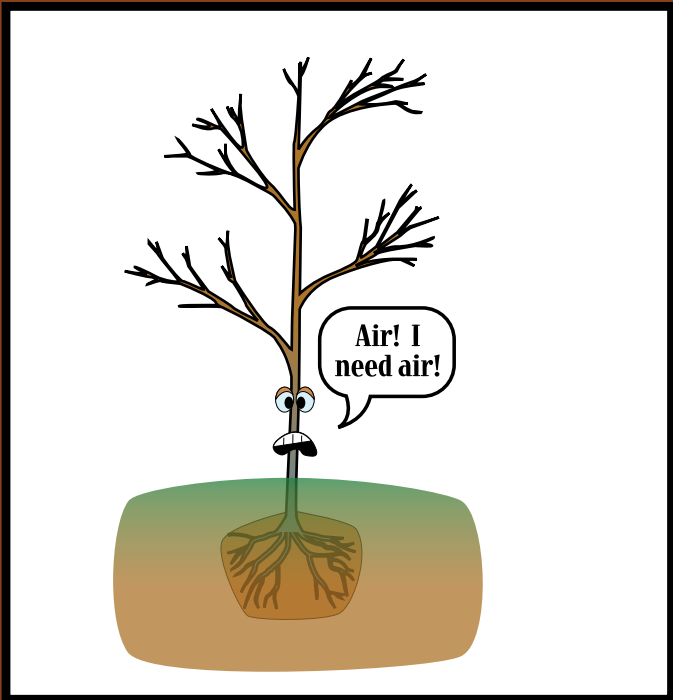
Guess who is coming to dinner?

**OH YEAH!
WELL, I SAY
THAT YOU'RE
IN MY
BACKYARD!**



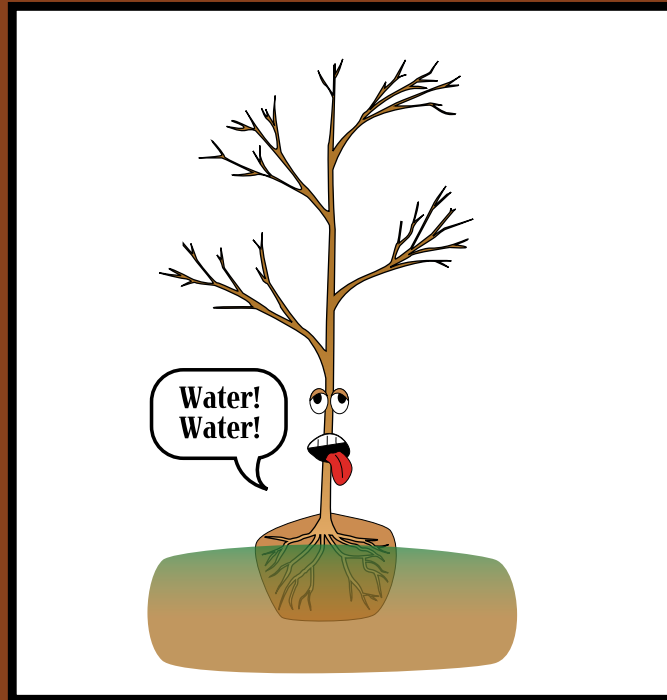
IN TOO DEEP

TOO DEEP



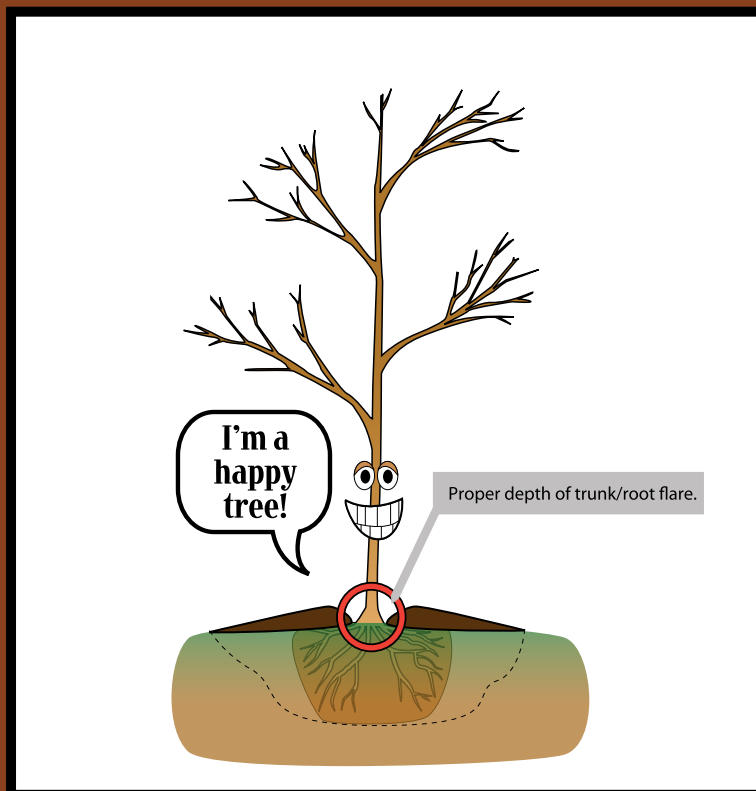
Roots cannot get adequate oxygen and will suffocate over time. Crowns and roots may rot.

TOO HIGH



If the root collar is too high, exposed roots can dry out and die.

JUST RIGHT!



When planting, dig the hole only as deep as the height of the root ball— whether the plant is container-grown or balled and burlapped (B & B)— so that the root ball sits on solid, undisturbed ground, so avoid it settling after planting.

When planted at the proper depth, the root flare or collar of the tree or shrub will be level with or slightly higher than the existing grade of the area.

A Case of Mistaken Identity

The myth is that all insects are pests.



With over 1 million species, less than 5% of these insects are considered harmful.

Why is it then that every time we see an insect our first impulse is to kill it?

Identify insects before assuming they are pests. Many are either beneficial or of no concern to us. Don't just kill them – ***“ugly” doesn't mean “bad.”***

Some insects hibernate or overwinter in houses – they don't feed or cause structural damage but are only nuisances. Recognize these nuisance bugs: multicolored Asian lady beetle, western conifer seed bug, yellow-brown stink bug, boxelder bug, and cluster fly. You only need to sweep or vacuum them.



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Little Miss Application



If 2 tbsps. will solve the problem, 4 should be better!

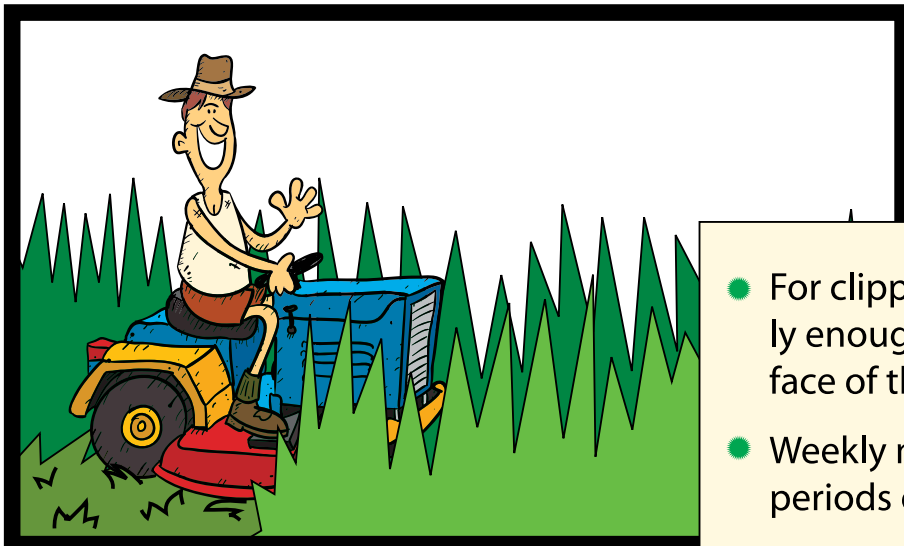
More is **NOT** better.

- By using more pesticide or fertilizer than is recommended on the product label, you will waste money, may hurt the plant, and risk environmental and human health.
- **Reading the label** and following the directions will give you and your plants the results you both desire.



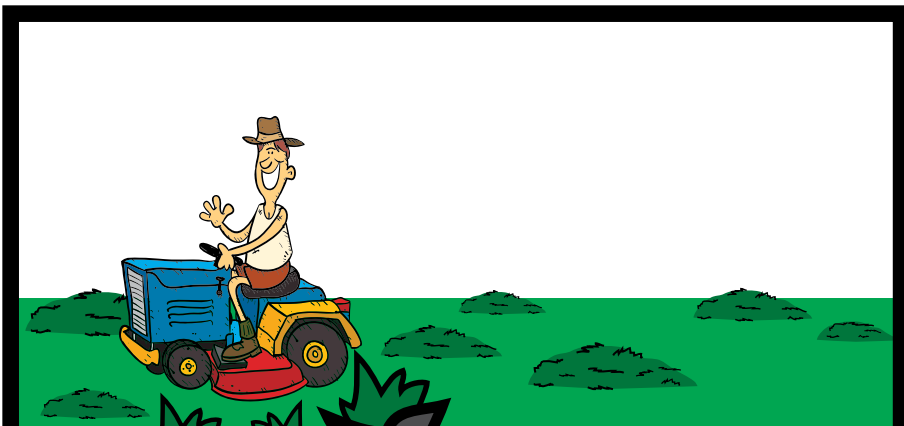
A MOWER RUNS THROUGH IT

Part II: Clumps and Piles



The Lawn Jungle: Not mowing often enough

- For clippings to break down rapidly, the lawn should be mowed frequently enough so that large amounts of leaf residue do not remain on the surface of the lawn.
- Weekly mowing may not be frequent enough, especially during the peak periods of leaf growth in spring and fall.
- As a rule of thumb, don't remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at a time, this stresses the plant. Stressed plants re-grow slower making the lawn more susceptible to weeds and other pests.
- It's not good to let your grass get tall and then cut it back short.



Bagging Grass Clippings: Don't do it!

- Clippings decompose naturally providing nutrients and organic matter back onto the lawn.
- Clippings don't cause thatch.
- If you can't mow frequently enough, or wet conditions result in large clumps of clippings:
 1. Re-mow in a day or two, after clippings dry, to chop and redistribute them **OR**
 2. Compost them **OR**
 3. Remove clippings, air dry, and use as a mulch



SHEAR TERROR

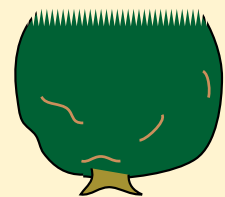
WAIT!

- If you are pruning to control size, you need to consider replacing the plant.
- Shearing is done to create formal landscapes, which require high maintenance.



Never leave short stubs when you make a cut.

Short stubs do not close quickly, which makes an ideal opening for disease and insects.

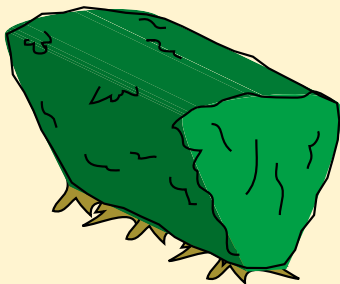


Never prune your spring-flowering plants before they blossom.

Wonder why your plants don't flower? Maybe you are pruning at the wrong time.

Never cut all the stems or shoots of a plant at the same height.

Giving the plant a "crew cut" look stimulates excess growth.



Never shear hedges to be narrower at the bottom.

A wider bottom exposes more of the plant to sunlight and eliminates the twiggy base often seen on hedges.



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Anatomy of a Murder

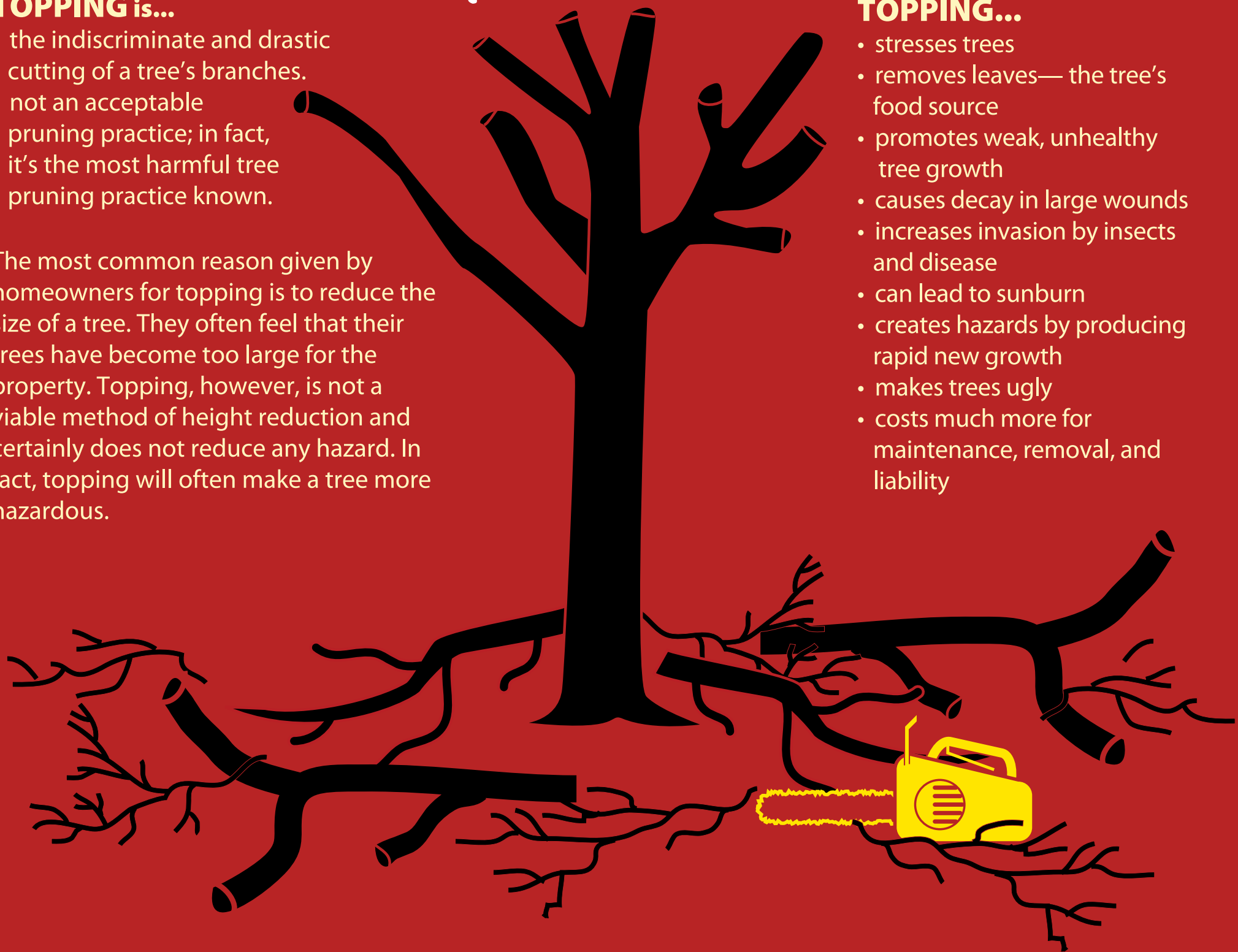
TOPPING is...

- the indiscriminate and drastic cutting of a tree's branches.
- not an acceptable pruning practice; in fact, it's the most harmful tree pruning practice known.

The most common reason given by homeowners for topping is to reduce the size of a tree. They often feel that their trees have become too large for the property. Topping, however, is not a viable method of height reduction and certainly does not reduce any hazard. In fact, topping will often make a tree more hazardous.

TOPPING...

- stresses trees
- removes leaves—the tree's food source
- promotes weak, unhealthy tree growth
- causes decay in large wounds
- increases invasion by insects and disease
- can lead to sunburn
- creates hazards by producing rapid new growth
- makes trees ugly
- costs much more for maintenance, removal, and liability



DON'T TOP TREES

Wisely select trees that will fit the spaces you have.

If you have questions concerning removing branches from a large tree, contact a certified arborist, the International Society of Arboriculture, National Arborist Association, or your local cooperative extension office.



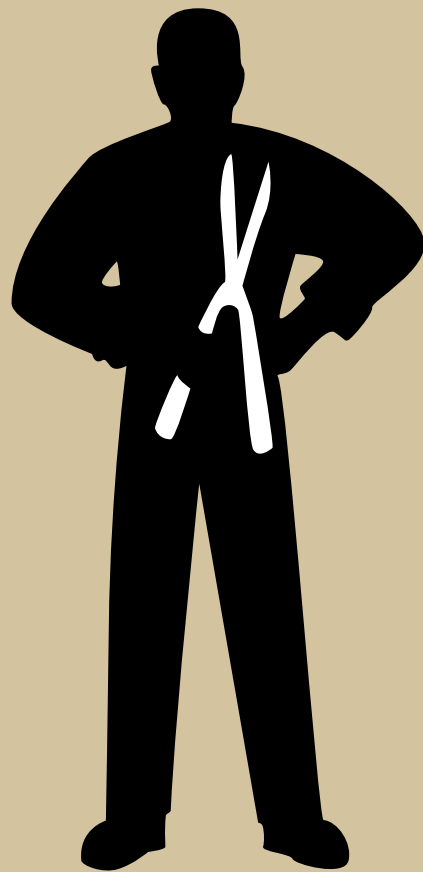
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All the right cuts!



WHY PRUNE?

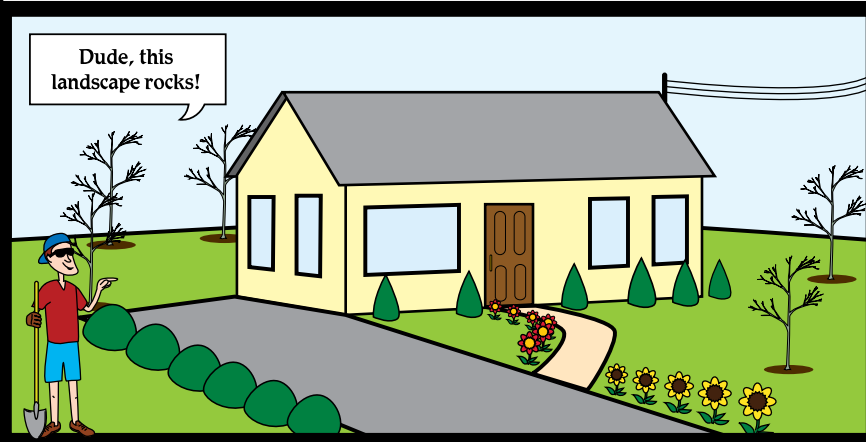


- To improve the health of a plant and to remove hazards.
- To remove any dead, diseased, damaged or insect infested parts. Good sanitation helps keep the rest of the plant clean.
- To open the plant's center, allowing more air and light to enter the plant. Good air circulation and increased light penetration reduces conditions for disease and insect activity while stimulating new growth.
- To rejuvenate an old, declining plant. Pruning can stimulate the growth of new wood.
- Shearing can be used to develop a special shape or form as in hedges, espaliers, and topiaries. Use shearing in combination with thinning for best results.
- To remove dead flower clusters and developing seed pods. When the seed pods are not removed, the plant may not bloom to its full potential the following year.

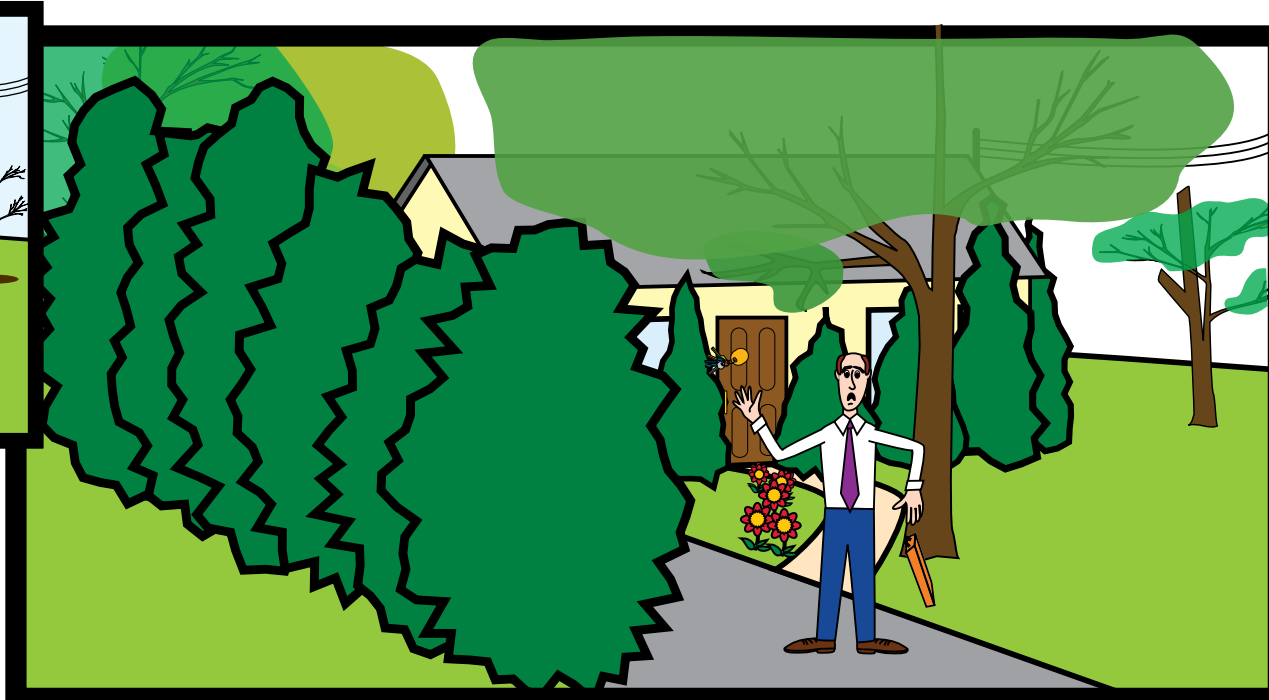
Dude! Where's my house?

Installing plants that will be too big for the space and function.

15 years earlier



NOW



Before choosing plants for your landscape, find out how tall and wide the plants will eventually grow. **Consider the plant's full growing potential before planting.**

In most cases, **space plants so that they don't grow into:**

- buildings and other structures
- windows and entrances
- other plants
- power lines
- roads, walkways or driveways
- lawn areas

Don't choose foundation **plants with mature sizes that will dwarf the house and obstruct windows or walkways.**

Place plantings far enough from the foundation to allow for security and routine maintenance on the exterior of your home. Proper foundation planting will also eliminate the possibility of damage to the outside walls from plant material.

When planting, consider spacing. Over crowding plants can promote insect and disease damage and results in higher maintenance needs for the plants.

Trying to regulate plant size by **drastic pruning is unhealthy for the plant**—and more work for you!

Spending money on a good design is a wise investment so that plant selection is done correctly in the beginning. A proper design can minimize problems down the road.



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Quick Fix

An Environmental Disaster

What
can I
spray
to fix
this?



Some site-related problems can mimic the symptoms of insect or disease. There's not always a "quick fix" or a product that can be used to "fix it."

Do you really know what the problem is?

- Before reaching for a pesticide, make the right diagnosis. (Contact a professional and/or cooperative extension for help!)
- Before applying fertilizer, take a soil test to determine if nutrients are needed, what nutrients are needed, and how much is needed.

By using the wrong pesticide or fertilizer—or by using these products unnecessarily—you will waste money, may kill good guys (beneficial organisms and even plants!), and risk environmental and human health.

Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers



Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont
West Virginia

The Northeastern and North Central Integrated Pest Management

Centers are part of a nationwide system that provides broad access

to reliable pest management information. They focus IPM team-building

efforts, communication networks, and stakeholder participation in

each region.



Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center was established in 2001. Members work

to promote environmentally sound solutions to home and garden pest problems. Members:

University of Maryland, Penn State University, Cornell, and University of Rhode Island, the

Environmental Protection Agency, Longwood Gardens, Audubon International, and Rivard's

Resources IPM Environmental Management Consultants. Partners: the North Central Integrated

Pest Management Center, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Regions I and III Water Quality.

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The Centers are supported by the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES)

www.northeastipm.org • www.ncipmc.org



Regional IPM Center Displays

The goals of the displays are to highlight poor gardening practices and help consumers make changes that will benefit them and the environment. The “Landscape Bloopers” display illustrates common landscaping mistakes. The “Growing Green Lawns” display utilizes best management practices to solve common lawn problems. Display content is the result of a national collaborative effort to build consensus among land grant universities, environmental groups, government, and private industry. Both displays utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques. IPM helps protect water, people, pest, plants, and our planet.

The **Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center’s Community IPM Working Group** members collaborate to promote effective environmentally sound solutions to home and garden pest problems. **Working Group Members:** University of Maryland, Penn State University, Cornell, and University of Rhode Island, the Environmental Protection Agency, Longwood Gardens, Audubon International, and Rivard’s Resources IPM Environmental Management Consultants. **Working Group Partners:** the North Central Integrated Pest Management Center, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Regions I and III Water Quality. The **North Central Integrated Pest Management Center’s** recently formed **Consumer Horticulture Working Group** plans to collaborate with the Community IPM Working Group from the NEIPM Center to continue to provide information to consumers about good lawn care practices. The NC IPM Center working group members currently included representatives from University of Wisconsin, South Dakota State University, North Dakota State University, The Ohio State University, Michigan State University, University of Illinois and University of Minnesota.

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center (<http://northeastipm.org>), and North Central Integrated Pest Management Center (<http://www.ncipmc.org>) are part of a nationwide system of four Regional Centers that provide broad access to reliable pest management information. The Centers focus on IPM team-building efforts, communication networks, and stakeholder participation in each region. The Centers are supported by the USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES).

Where to get Information:

growinggreenlawns.org – provides a central location for people to go to for specific information on lawn care.

csrees.usda.gov/extension – locate your local cooperative extension office.

Contact information:

Mary Kay Malinoski, University of Maryland, Home and Garden Information Center, mkmal@umd.edu, 410-531-5568

Rick Johnson, Pennsylvania State University, Pesticide Education Program, rhj3@psu.edu, 814-865-8080

Sue Ratcliffe, Director, North Central IPM Center, UIUC, sratclif@uiuc.edu, 217-333-9656

David Clement, University of Maryland Home and Garden Information Center, University of Maryland, clement@umd.edu, 410-531-5556

Display #1 – Typical Landscape Mistakes:

Landscape Bloopers

Pesticides:

Beyond the Cabinet Door: Improper Storage of pesticides and poisons

Little Miss Application: More is not better, over use of products

Collateral Damage: Off target application

Quick Fix: Choosing the wrong products

Pest Management:

A Case of Mistaken Identity: A myth that all insects are pests

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: If you plant it they will come

Landscaping:

Anatomy of a Murder: Topping Trees

Shear Terror: Improper Pruning

All the right cuts: Why Prune

Dude! Where's my house? Improper Plant selection and placement

In Too Deep: Improper Planting

Buried Alive: Improper Mulching

Lawns:

A Mower Runs Through it Part I

Shredded and Low: Mowing too Low

Ripping-n-Tearing: Using a Dull Mower Blade

A Mower Runs Through it Part II

The Lawn Jungle: Not mowing often enough

Bagging Grass Clippings: Don't bag clippings

Display #2 – Sustainable Lawn Care

Growing Green Lawns

Benefits of Lawns: many uses and environmental benefits of lawns

Growing Green Grass: mow right feed right, and water right

Mowing: correct mowing practices

Watering: water conservation tips

Feeding: sustainable fertilizing practices

Weeds: smart ways to manage weeds

Insects and Diseases: common sense solutions