

## Are YOU a responsible user?

Answer honestly and find out:

- Do pests even exist?
- Do you try non-toxic solutions first?
- Do you use the least amount of the correct product?
- Do you read and follow all label instructions?
- Do you protect yourself, family, neighbors, and pets?
- Do you understand the dangers to pregnant women and young children?
- Do you understand the connection between applying pesticides and contaminating air, soil or water?
- Do you know where to dispose of unused pesticides safely?
- Do you know the signs of pesticide poisoning?
- Do you know when and where others use pesticides?

## Learn more about pesticides

- National Pesticide Information Center ([npic.orst.edu/index.html](http://npic.orst.edu/index.html)) or call 1-800-858-7378
- US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs ([www.epa.gov/pesticides/](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/))
- Pesticide Action Network Pesticide Database ([www.pesticideinfo.org](http://www.pesticideinfo.org))
- National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides ([www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org))
- EXTOXNET – Extension Toxicology Network ([pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet](http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu/profiles/extoxnet))

## It's unbelievable that...

- 3 times more pesticides are applied per acre to home lawns and gardens than are applied to agricultural crops.
- Homeowners apply an estimated 66 million pounds of herbicides and insecticides per year to their homes, gardens, and lawns. This does NOT include applications made to these areas by pest control or lawn care professionals.
- 86,880 pesticide exposure cases were reported to the national network of Poison Control Centers in 2000. More than half of these poisoning cases involved children under the age of six.
- It is estimated that 72 million birds die each year as a result of direct exposure to pesticides on agricultural lands alone. Lawn pesticides cause the death of an estimated additional 7 million.
- Home lawns blanket at least 21 million acres – that's an area larger than Maryland, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire COMBINED.
- Non-native weeds consume 4600 acres of wildlife habitat *per day* on public land in the U.S.

## Learn more about how to reduce the use of pesticides, find alternatives, and create a healthy backyard

- National Audubon Society Audubon At Home ([www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home))
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Backyard Conservation ([www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html](http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html))
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Information Network ([www.wildflower.org/npin/index.html](http://www.wildflower.org/npin/index.html))
- Brooklyn Botanic Garden Gardening for Wildlife ([www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/](http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/))

Hang this chart near your garden supplies as a reminder to make kinder choices.



Audubon

# Audubon Guide for a Healthy Yard and Beyond

(3rd Edition)

More Native Plants! Less Lawn! Fewer Toxics!