

CITY OF OAK RIDGE
Stormwater Management



Best Management Practices for Water Quality Protection *Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Herbicides*

Introduction

In the state of Tennessee, water pollution in our streams is a direct result of pollutants that have been dumped or spilled onto the ground and that are then washed from rain and wind into our creeks and streams. The misuse or overuse of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides has the potential to pollute our waterways. Implementing the best management practices (BMPs) described in this document can help minimize or eliminate pollution resulting from the use of these chemicals.

Overview of Control Measures:

- Carefully manage rate, timing, and method of application
- Eliminate excessive pesticide use
- Consider various alternatives to chemical controls

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Fertilizers

- To determine optimum lime and fertilizer concentrations, conducting a soil test is recommended.
- Application should not occur if rainfall is expected
- Only apply if adequate soil moisture is present
- Lightly sprinkle lawn or garden following application

Pesticides and Herbicides

- Make sure to properly identify the pest, and decide if it is only a nuisance or if it is causing significant damage
- Consider all alternatives and look at long term cost benefits
- If treatment is needed, use the least toxic chemical that will still produce the desired effect
- Time your treatments appropriately for your target pest
- If treating for an insect, make sure the pesticide is specific to the species and life stage (ex. larvae vs. adult)
- Application should not occur if rainfall is expected
- Do not broadcast over entire lawn area, apply in narrow band
- Spot treat selected areas when possible
- NEVER APPLY NEAR STREAMS, CREEKS, DITCHES, STORM DRAINS, OR IMPERVIOUS SURFACES
- Good qualities to look for in a pesticide or herbicide:
 - Low water solubility
 - Granular formulations over liquid substances
- Only spray when wind speeds are less than 7 mph
 - If possible, apply in the afternoon to avoid temperature inversions and drift
 - Air temperature should range between 40-80 degrees Fahrenheit

Good Housekeeping and Safety

- It is a good idea to test your soil before using any of these products to make sure you have the right amount and type of substance

- Always use caution when handling any pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers
 - Avoid contact with eyes and skin
 - Wear gloves and eye protection when handling
 - Do not wear contact lenses
- These substances contain toxic chemicals that can cause injury or death
 - Work only in well ventilated areas
- Keep products well labeled and stored in original containers (NEVER food containers)
 - Away from children, pet, heat sources, sparks, and flames
- Always read and follow all use instructions provided on packaging
- Always refer to the Safety Data Sheet for potential hazards, and additional restrictions
- Do not over apply the product if it is not necessary
- Do not dispose of products into trash or waste containers, into storm drains or creeks, on to the ground, or by burning

For more information please visit our website: <http://stormwater.oakridgetn.gov>

For immediate questions about the disposal of solid waste please contact:

Waste Connections – Oak Ridge

Phone: 865-522-8161

Email: olpoakridge@wasteconnections.com

For soil sampling questions, please contact:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Institute of Agriculture

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/spp/Pages/soiltesting.aspx>

For other questions, please contact:

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