

Pull don't poison!



Got Weeds?

Most gardens do. But good old fashioned pulling can be the best way to deal with them.

Plant Healthy

Healthy plants naturally resist disease and pests. Buy healthy plants from the start and research the correct requirements for sunlight, temperature and water so each plant is getting the requirements it needs. Deal with diseased plants early, so it doesn't spread to the rest of your garden.

Build Good Soil

Pests are attracted to plants that are unhealthy. Oftentimes the soil simply doesn't have the nutrients or moisture that plants require and the result is unhealthy, diseased plants. It's easy to help create better soil by adding organic amendments. For flower beds and vegetable gardens add 1-3" of leaves, grass clippings or compost. For trees, shrubs and woody perennials add 2-4" of woody mulches like wood chips or bark. For lawns, use a mulching mower which adds nutrients back into your soil or add a thin layer of compost instead of weed & feed.

Practice Patience

Accept a little damage. Natural predators will often bring pest problems under control but they need some time to work. If you must use chemicals, use the least harmful ones in the smallest amount to get the job done.

More info.



More natural gardening information can be found at:
www.yakimarecycles.com



Know Your Bugs

Not all bugs are bad, in fact, there are many “good bugs” such as bees, dragonflies and lady beetles who help keep your plants pollinated and aphid-free. Only about 5% of the bugs in your yard are considered pests. You may be killing insects that are keeping pests in check. To find out more about good bugs and bad bugs go to www.yakimarecycles.com and click on the Compost/Yard Waste link.

Birds

Birds can also be helpful with controlling pests in the garden. Trees, shrubs with berries, birdhouses and birdbaths or water features all help to encourage birds to visit.



Garden Chemicals

Did you know that “Weed & Feed” is not just a fertilizer, but also a pesticide? Overuse of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers cause damage to soil and plant health. Studies have found **increased health risks** among families that use lawn and garden pesticides especially for children and pets.

Disposal of Chemicals

So, you want to practice Natural Gardening and now you have a garage full of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers? It is very important to dispose of chemicals safely. NEVER pour chemicals down a storm sewer, on the ground or in your garbage. Bring all your unwanted chemicals to our Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Terrace Heights Landfill, free of charge.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Wednesday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Questions? Call 509-574-2450



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