

Help Keep Our Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Clean

The chemicals in herbicides and pesticides pollute our waterways if washed from lawns and gardens into storm drains and roadside ditches.

How can you maintain your garden and trees while protecting our waterways?

- Go native
 - Select plants native to Michigan. Native plants are better able to tolerate Michigan's climate, require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Plant a rain garden
 - Use native plants in low areas where rainwater collects in your yard to trap, absorb, and filter stormwater.
- Diversify your plantings
 - Use a wide variety of plants to help control pests and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Place a thick layer of mulch (four inches) around trees and plants
 - This helps retain water, reduce weeds, and minimizes the need for pesticides.
- Plant a tree
 - Trees can provide many benefits, such as soaking up water; that improves the environment and quality of life in your community. A typical, medium-sized tree can capture 2,380 gallons of rainwater per year.
- Use pesticides and herbicides sparingly
 - Limit application of these chemicals to problem areas only.

For more information on ways to protect our watershed, visit www.semcog.org.