

Safer Alternatives to Garden Chemicals:

- Instead of toxic slug bait dig a 500 ml plastic container half full of stale beer into the garden so that it sits flush with the soil. Slugs are attracted to smell and will drown. Or, place a thick layer of sawdust or hand crushed egg shells around borders.
- Look for natural insecticides that use pyrethrins (plant derived), or a combination of concentrated soaps. Always read the label to ensure your buying a chemical that will target the right pest.



Many plants such as geraniums, marigolds, tomatoes, onions, and lavender contain naturally-occurring insect repellants that will help keep your garden pest free.

- For aphids try ordering a bag of lady bugs from a local garden centre or from off of the internet.
- Spray the roots of weeds directly with a solution consisting of 100 ml vinegar, 400 ml water, and 2 tablespoons of salt.
- Utilize plant species that are drought-tolerant or native to your area.

For More Information on Environmentally-Friendly Garden Practices in the SLRD Contact:

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Box 219, Pemberton, B. C. V0N 2L0
1-800-298-7753
(604) 894-6371 ext. 236
www.slrld.bc.ca
Info@slrd.bc.ca



The Composting Council of Canada
16 Northumberland St., Toronto, Ont.
M6H 1P7
(416) 535-0240
www.compost.org

Gardens Alive
This mail order company has red wrigglers and lady bugs for sale.
www.gardensalive.com

City Farmer website
www.cityfarmer.info

Enlightening Reading:

Silent Spring

By Rachel Carson

- A global examination of pesticide, herbicide, and insecticide usage.

Carrots Love Tomatoes or Roses Love Garlic

By Louise Riotte

- The practice of companion planting.



Common-Sense Pest Control

By William Olkowski, Sheila Daar, Helga Olkowski

- Tips on how to avoid toxic pesticides.

How to Get your Lawn and Garden Off Drugs

By Carole Rubin

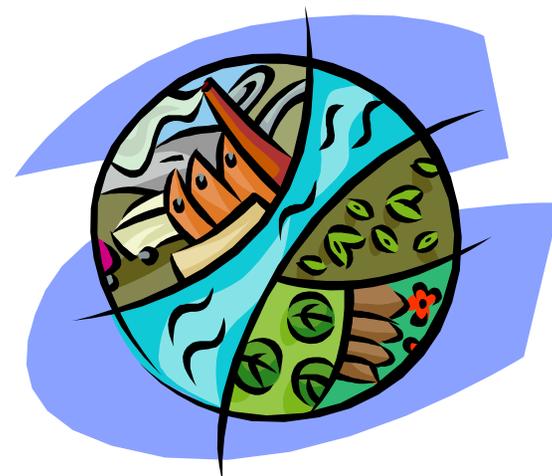
- Organic landscaping methods.



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The Smart Gardener

Be Good to your Garden.



How to Eliminate the Need for Fertilizers, Pesticides, and other Nasty Substances.

What's Wrong with Using Chemicals in my Garden?

Chemicals appear to improve your lawn and garden overnight. However, these substances can be harmful or fatal to you, your children, and your pets. The manufacture of landscape chemicals can also be hazardous. Even worse, the long term effects associated with their use is not completely understood. The best way to avoid potential problems with lawn and garden chemicals is to not buy them altogether. You can have just as lush a yard without piling on the toxins.



Fertilizers, Herbicides, Insecticides, Fungicides



Pollutes air, land, groundwater, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Can promote weed growth.

Can negatively affect beneficial organisms and plants.

Can be potentially harmful or fatal to humans, pets, and wildlife.

Can "burn" your lawn and other plants.

What Can I Do Instead?

Mulch your Lawn Clippings:

When you cut your lawn, leave the clippings where they fall. If the clippings are clumping, take a soft rake and spread them out. As they dry and decompose they will restore valuable nutrients to the soil beneath. This is composting in its most simple form. Many well-known mower manufacturers make mulcher-mowers that cost the same as regular machines. Why not try a non-motorized push mower?

Pull your Weeds by Hand:

Weed seeds are transferred to your lawn and garden by wind, bird droppings, and even from off your shoes. No garden or lawn is ever 100% and permanently weed-free. It may seem like a lot of work but by pulling weeds by hand you are helping to strengthen the overall state of your lawn. Make it part of your weekly routine and get a little workout at the same time. Hire the kid next door to do it. Eventually, your weeds will become under control.

Use an Organic Fertilizer:

There are a number of highly effective organic lawn fertilizers out there today. Some are a little more expensive than synthetic fertilizers but the costs are minor in the long run and the overall boost to lawns is comparable.

Don't Give your Lawn a Brush Cut:

Try to cut your lawn high leaving it 3" to 4" in height. Leaving lots of green growth promotes photosynthesis. You'll get healthier, more robust grass growing. Also, keep the blade of your mower sharp and avoid cutting when the lawn is wet.

Fortify your Lawn:

Aerate your lawn in the spring and fall to promote root growth, proper drainage, and loose soil. Leave the "plugs" on top to break down naturally. As much as possible in a season, top dress your lawn with compost, the best fertilizer out there. Spread grass seed during the growing season to crowd out any unwanted weeds.

Practice Water-wise Gardening:

Most people over-water their plants. Water your garden once in the morning or at night. Promote deep root growth by watering your lawn only once a week. Don't freak out if your lawn turns brown and crusty during parts of the summer. Lawn grasses are tough and will return to their green best when the rains come. Have you thought about buying a rain barrel?

