Use fertilizers and pesticides responsibly

To reduce pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, use them responsibly--at the right time, in the right amount, in the right place and for the right reason.

- Before applying fertilizer, test your soil and apply only the amount recommended.
- Consider slow-release or organic fertilizers.
- Improve soil fertility by adjusting soil pH or acidity (applying lime to raise the pH) and increasing soil organic matter through compost and mulching.
- Before applying a pesticide, be sure that you have correctly identified the pest(s).
- Avoid using pesticides as a preventative measure.
- Determine if there are alternative control options such as mechanical, biological, or cultural methods.
- If a pest problem has been correctly identified, determine if uniform treatment is needed or if spot treatment can work.

**Application methods:**

- Apply the amount of fertilizer and/or pesticide intended by measuring the treatment area and calibrating your spreader.
- Avoid applying fertilizers and pesticides on paved surfaces and near storm drains, surface waters and drinking water wells.
- Drop spreaders allow for controlled applications.
- Always read label directions carefully and store these products in dry, well-ventilated places in their original containers.
- Buy only the amount needed and dispose of unused products properly—give to a neighbor or call the RI Eco-Depot at (401) 942-1430 or visit their website www.rirrc.org

---

**Maintaining your landscape for clean water starts with a few simple steps**

- Choose the right plant for the right spot.
- Recycle your yard waste.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides responsibly.
- Water wisely.
- Reduce runoff from your yard and increase groundwater recharge.
- Reduce soil erosion. Keep it planted and mulched.
- Pick up after your pets.
- Use and dispose of fuels and hazardous products properly.

Learn more about creating your healthy landscape. For details, call 401 874-5398, or visit our website.
For more information:

URI Sustainable Trees and Shrubs Manual

URI Master Gardener Hotline:
1 (800) 448-1011 (M-Th, 9AM to 2 PM)
Call to get your gardening questions answered

URI Plant Protection Clinic:
www.uri.edu/ce/ceec/plantclinic.html
(401) 874-2900
Assistance with identification of plant insects and disease

URI Home*A*Syst Program
web.uri.edu/safewater
(401) 874-5398
Information on protecting your drinking water

An alternative to chemical control of the Oriental Beetle involves mass trapping and mating disruption as displayed below.

The catch can trap pests using a pheromone lure to attract the adult male Oriental Beetle. The larval stage or white grub can cause damage to lawn grass by feeding off of the root system. This technique is a form of alternative control using mass trapping and mating disruption. Davisville, North Kingstown, RI. June 2003.

The catch can trap is installed below ground where the funnel opening will be flush with the natural ground surface.

Bury the trap in the ground to the level of the blue line.