

Better Gardening Practices to Improve Water Quality in Urban Environments

“Cul-de-Sac” Demonstrations Outline

Irrigation and Proper Pesticide Use and Disposal

- Explain how runoff effects water quality and the quick and simple things that can be done to minimize it.
 - How to adjust spray heads
 - How to make repairs and/or replace broken lines/heads
 - How to test for sprinkler uniformity
 - How to adjust the time duration of the irrigation controller to control runoff
 - The importance of programming the controller seasonally
 - Introduce lower impact products and the various rebates available.
 - Hand out sprinkler key
- Discuss proper pesticide use and disposal and the effects on water quality.
 - Demonstrate proper clean up and disposal
 - Review where to take unwanted chemicals (will contact HHW to find out if they will allow for us to collect from attending residents and make a larger drop off than normally allowed)
 - Discuss less toxic pesticides and alternatives (University/Project approved)
 - Hand out Top Ten Ways to Keep Our Water Clean, Garden Chemicals: Safe Use and Disposal, Ants, Gardening with Good Bugs, IPM card

How to Lower the Impact of Your Landscape on Water Runoff

- Discuss key points such as:
 - Low Impact plant choices and where to buy them
 - The importance of hydrozoning plant material
 - Proper site preparation
 - Mulches
 - Use of porous materials
 - Briefly discuss fertilizer(what types to use, where, when etc.) and its effect on water quality
 - Hand out Landscape Design and Water Quality, Landscape Plants: Fertilizing and Watering, All Star Plant List, IPM card and a list of local nurseries that carry low impact plants. Give away 4” plant to each attendee?

Lawn Care to Improve Water Quality

- Review types of lawns – Are there other choices besides Marathon?
- Discuss/demonstrate (?) proper maintenance practices such as:
 - Aerating the lawn/soil
 - Dethatching
 - Poor watering practices
 - When to water
 - Check for irrigation uniformity and repairs needed
 - Adjust irrigation seasonally
 - Handout Lawn Watering
- Fertilizers
 - How and when to use them
 - What products to use – what do those numbers mean anyway?
 - How to clean up spills
 - Handout Lawn Fertilizing
- Lawn Insects and Pesticides
 - What to use?
 - Handout Lawn Insects, Garden Chemicals: Safe Use and Disposal – Give out measuring scoop?

How do I get rid of those pests in my garden and keep the local waters clean?

- Less toxic pesticides and pesticide alternatives for treating:
 - Snails and Slugs
 - Ants
 - Rabbits
 - Where do I find less toxic pesticides and pesticide alternatives
 - Handout Ants, Snails and Slugs, Gardening with Good Bugs, IPM etc. Give out ant baits?