



# LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

FOR HEALTHY WATERS AND HAPPY CUSTOMERS

Landscape maintenance benefits your customers and their landscapes, and also has a big impact on the local watershed.

## WHAT'S HARMFUL TO OUR WATERWAYS?

### YARD DEBRIS

Yard debris such as grass, leaves, tree needles, and soil can enter storm drain facilities and cause blockages and flooding.

### CHEMICALS

Any landscape chemical including pesticides, fertilizers, and oils and fuels from equipment, can contribute to water pollution.

### SOIL

Soil that enters waterways can clog fish gills and damage stream habitat.



**NEVER LET THEM ENTER STORM DRAINS!**

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!



### Here's what to avoid:

- Never stockpile landscaping materials (e.g. dirt, bark dust, sand and gravels) in the roadway or on pervious pavement.
- Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers under windy conditions or when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.
- Don't blow, dump or wash yard debris into the roadway.
- Don't let landscape water runoff into the roadway.
- If yard debris burning is allowed in your area, please don't burn the material near the water's edge.



# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To help you better serve your customers, here are some simple steps to protect human health, our streams, rivers, and drinking water supplies.



## LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

### Plant With Purpose

- Plant slopes densely to prevent erosion.
- Build the soil with compost and mulch to produce healthy plants.
- Mow lawns high, often, and with sharp blades. Consider using a mulching lawn mower to improve turf health.
- Inspect and clean the landscaped stormwater treatment facilities (e.g., rain gardens, bio-retention, swales) in accordance with their operation and maintenance plan.
- Compost yard debris.
- Use native plants where appropriate.
- Cover or place perimeter sediment controls around landscaping material piles per local requirement timelines to prevent runoff to the stormwater system.

## PESTICIDE & FERTILIZER USE

### Minimize Chemical Use

- Pull weeds instead of spraying.
- Use appropriate mechanical and biological controls.
- Purchase only the amount of pesticides and fertilizer that you need for your site.
- Apply spot treatments instead of broad application.
- When needed, use slow-release fertilizers to prevent wash off; consider using organic products.
- Sweep up product that lands on impervious surfaces.

### Read Carefully

- Apply pesticides and fertilizers according to the manufacturer's recommendations and specific soil needs.
- Follow label recommendations to dispose of unused chemicals—**it's the law.**

### Store Thoughtfully

- Store all chemicals under cover to protect from wind and rain.

## WATERFRONT LANDSCAPING

### Protect Our Waterways

- Use a buffer strip of native plants between the waterway and the yard to help filter pollutants.
- Plant trees and shrubs near water's edge to provide shade and help keep the water cool.

**CONSIDER BECOMING AN  
ECOBIZ CERTIFIED LANDSCAPER!  
SEE [WWW.ECOBIZ.ORG](http://WWW.ECOBIZ.ORG)**



**CITY OF BEND**  
STORMWATER

[oracwa.org](http://oracwa.org)





# LOOKING TO HIRE A LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICE?



Ask your landscape maintenance contractor to use these best management practices to help protect our waters, our environment and those you love!

## WHY BOTHER WITH BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are designed to protect both our streams and underground drinking water quality, and to prevent clogging our stormwater facilities. Implementing BMPs can make a positive difference to help protect our waters, properties, and public health.

HEALTHY WATER • HEALTHY PLANTS • HEALTHY FAMILIES



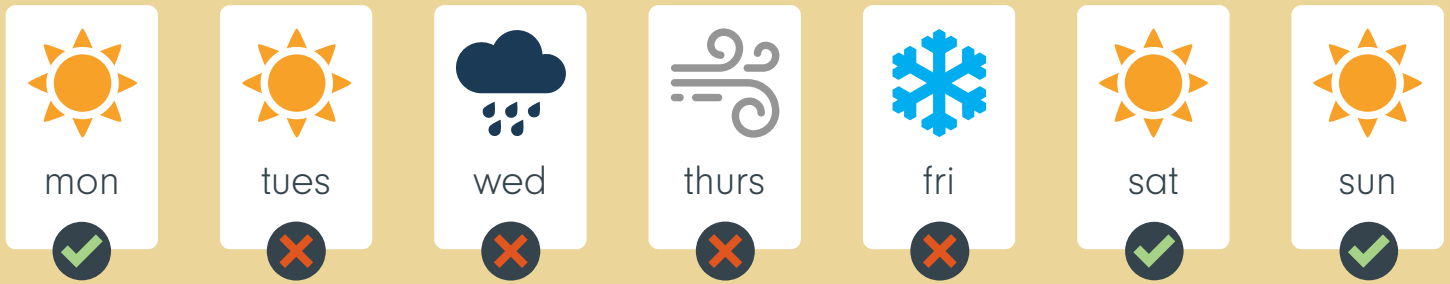
## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Do not blow or sweep trash, yard debris, soils or chemicals into street or storm drains. Collect and properly dispose of these materials.
- Properly compost or dispose of debris daily.
- Inspect and safely clean onsite landscape stormwater facilities (e.g., rain gardens, swales) to ensure they operate as designed.
- Mow high, often, and with sharp blades.
- Store fertilizers and other chemicals under cover.
- Purchase the least amount of landscape chemicals needed for your site.
- Use integrated pest management practices. For more information visit: [www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/RegulatoryIssues/Pages/IPM.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/RegulatoryIssues/Pages/IPM.aspx)
- Adjust sprinklers to minimize irrigation overspray.
- Check local rules! Never stockpile landscaping material (e.g., dirt, bark chips, sand gravel) in the roadway or on pervious pavement unless your municipality allows it.
- Roots hold soils in place. Plant slopes with dense ground covering plants to prevent erosion.

**CONSIDER HIRING AN ECOBIZ CERTIFIED LANDSCAPER! SEE [WWW.ECOBIZ.ORG](http://WWW.ECOBIZ.ORG)**

# IMPORTANT MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE

Do **NOT** apply pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers under windy conditions, or when rain, snow, sleet or hail is predicted within the next 48 hours.



## WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Common practices such as these can pollute our water:



1.

Over spraying fertilizer/pesticides on the sidewalk and applying them under wet conditions.



2.

Raking or blowing leaves and grass off yard and into streets.



3.

Leaving pet waste that can carry bacteria to waterways.



4.

Stockpiling landscape material into the street where it can be a driving safety hazard, clog drains, and result in pollution.



5.

Allowing irrigation overspray to enter waterways.



### WHERE DO THESE DRAINS GO?

Depending on where you are, stormwater can either travel to a stream or river, soak into the ground through landscaped facilities, or be injected towards underground water supplies. Therefore, it is important to keep our stormwater clean.

