

SPRING LANDSCAPE TIPS

Home gardens and lawns contribute a considerable amount of nutrients, as well as pollution, to streams and other water bodies if not cared for in a responsible way.



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Many insects are harmless to people and play an important role in maintaining a healthy lawn or garden ecosystem. Pesticides, on the other hand, infiltrate into ground water, contaminate drinking supplies, and severely harm downstream ecosystems. Adopt Integrated Pest Management, an ecosystem-based strategy that works with nature. Some techniques include encouraging natural predators, reducing over-watering that may lead to fungi and root disease, and using physical or mechanical controls rather than poisons. Learn more at ipm.ucanr.edu.

EARTHWORM CASTINGS

Consider amending your soil with earthworm castings. As worms move through soil, they leave behind highly nutrient castings with a myriad of benefits for your soil and plants. These benefits include better water absorption, microbial growth that helps fight off plant diseases and, best of all, healthier soil that stimulates plant growth. Simply visit a nearby hardware store or nursery to pick-up a bag of this material. Once at home, apply the castings right on top of your existing lawn and around the base of plants, and soak a few times with water.

FERTILIZERS

Instead of applying traditional fertilizers, use compost or manure. Compost is a natural form of soil amendment that contains many nutrients needed for your garden. If you must use fertilizers, choose organic instead of traditional inorganic or synthetic fertilizers.

MOWER HEIGHT

Set your mower height to at least three inches. Tall grass slows the rate of runoff and will produce a deeper and denser root system. Denser roots will absorb more water, reducing lawn runoff and preventing erosion.

GRASS CLIPPINGS

Retain grass clippings on-site. These clippings provide important nutrients for your lawn and create an organic layer on the soil to encourage stormwater infiltration. Do not blow or sweep them on to a street or into the storm drains—the clippings directly flow to local streams, where they decompose and act as major pollutants by increasing nitrogen to unsafe levels for fish and other aquatic life.



EARTH DAY AND SPRING CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019

This free Zero Waste event will feature vendors of locally made arts, crafts, and food. There will be interactive activities such as egg hunts, free raffle prizes, food trucks and much more!

Please join our celebration on:

Saturday, April 20th from 10am to 2pm at Bryte Park, 425 Todhunter Avenue - *NEW LOCATION*.

For more information, visit:
WestSacRecycles.org or call (916) 617-4590.

TOP 5 RECYCLING CONTAINER CONTAMINANTS

Recyclables collected in West Sacramento go to the Sacramento Recycling and Transfer Station (SRTS) in Sacramento County for sorting. Recent declines in recycling markets and strict new limits on contamination have made it increasingly difficult for the SRTS to manage contamination found in recycling carts. To better understand the issue and create targeted outreach, City staff asked the SRTS staff for a list of the top five problematic contaminants they find in residential recycling carts. Here is what they said:

- 1 TANGLERS** – Long, thin flexible items such as wire, garden hose, cord, rope and chain all get tangled in the cogs of the metal sorting belts at the recycling facility. These “tangles” can cause big problems at the recycling facility, including shutting down an entire sorting line. Please put cord, rope and garden hose discards in the trash. Wire and chain may also be disposed of as trash. However, these materials may have scrap metal value. If you are interested in recycling wire and chain, please contact local scrap metal recyclers.
- 2 PROPANE TANKS** – Propane tanks, and other pressurized gas cylinders, can cause significant damage. The tanks themselves are made of heavy steel with the potential to damage equipment when dropped. On top of this, propane is combustible and, under certain circumstances, may explode. For these reasons, pressurized cylinders should be disposed of a household hazardous waste (HHW). To properly dispose of pressurized cylinders, please use one of the HHW disposal options listed below.
- 3 OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** – Other HHW such as batteries, paint, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs, and electronics all contain components that can negatively impact human health. To comply with the law, as well as protect human health and the environment, always properly dispose of HHW. See the list of HHW disposal options available to West Sacramento residents listed below.
- 4 PLASTIC BAGS** – Plastic bags, like other “tangles”, get caught in the sorting belts at the recycling facility and therefore are not accepted for recycling at this facility. At least once a day, the SRTS facility must shut down to allow workers to remove plastic bags and other stray materials from the sorting belts. Please never bag your recyclables in plastic bags. Put your

recyclables in your recycling cart loosely. If you would like to recycle your plastic bags, some stores, such as the Nugget Market in West Sacramento, offer a plastic bag recycling bin near the front entrance.

- 5 SHARPS** – Sharps (medication injection needles and blood testing devices) can pierce the skin of waste industry workers, exposing them to bacteria, disease and illness. As with all HHW, it is illegal to dispose of Sharps in any of your curbside carts. To properly dispose of sharps, place them in a sealed, non-pierceable, container labeled as “Sharps Waste” and dispose of them through one of the HHW options listed below.

Residents in West Sacramento have several disposal options for HHW and other recyclables.

- 1** To schedule a no-additional-cost pick up of HHW, call Waste Management at (800) 449-7587 or visit their website at www.WMAtYourDoor.com to schedule an “At Your Door Special Collection” appointment. Residents are eligible for two Special Collection HHW appointments each year, between July 1 through June 30.
- 2** The Yolo County Central Landfill, located at 44090 County Rd 28H, Woodland, host a free HHW drop-off event, every Friday and Saturday, between 7:30am-3:30pm. Senior and disabled residents, who are unable to drive, may be eligible for a free HHW pick up appointment through Yolo County. Call (916) 617-4656 for more information.
- 3** Some HHW items such as batteries, paint, and CFL bulbs, and other recyclables such as scrap metal and plastic bags have recycling options inside the City. Visit www.CityofWestSacramento.org/AtoZ for a list of local recycling and disposal options listed alphabetically by material type.

CURBY'S CORNER



Q: How do I dispose of bulky items that are too large to fit in my curbside carts?

A: Residents may schedule two (2) bulky waste collection appointments per year, between July 1 and June 30, at no additional cost. Eligible items include furniture, mattresses/box springs, electronics, tires (limit of 4), rugs, and small and large appliances. Some limits apply. Call Waste Management at (866) 844-1508 or visit SacramentoValley.WM.com to schedule a bulky waste collection appointment.