

COMMITTEE: NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA ITEM: PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS

In some of the new housing developments, people are using a lot of pesticides and fertilizers to make their lawns green, green, green. It turns out that they think that if a little is good, a lot must be better, and they are applying the chemicals at two and three times the rates recommended on the bottles! This means that water that runs off has these chemicals in it; on one of the lakes, the water quality is noticeably worse. In fact, there are a lot of weeds in the water during the summer. The neighbors are starting to complain about that. What can you do?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Problems with pesticides and fertilizers tend to come from applying them wrong: not following directions and putting too much down. Too much of a good thing, can be a bad thing. Fertilizers have a lot of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus. They help things grow! They help lawns grow, and they also help weeds in ponds grow. Homeowners often put way too many pesticides and fertilizers on their lawns! Homeowners can do things like: test their soil first to see if they need fertilizers; and use non-toxic solutions (like beer to catch slugs) instead of pesticides