This guide describes ways to grow a vibrant garden by:

- creating healthy soil,
- planting the right plants for Marin; and
- using less-toxic pesticides and organic pest control methods.

It’s time to begin safer gardening in Marin!

However, if you must use commercial pesticides, always follow the label directions for proper use and remember:

- More is not better! It only takes a small amount of some pesticides to be effective.
- Never apply chemicals when rain is forecast and don’t overwater your lawn. Rain and overwatering can cause pesticides and other chemicals to “run-off” your lawn or garden and enter a storm drain where they will be carried directly to the Bay.

For more information on protecting our local waterways, including the Bay and Ocean, call Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program at 485-3363.

This guide describes ways to grow a vibrant garden by creating healthy soil, planting the right plants for San Francisco, using less-toxic pesticides, and organic pest control methods. Now you can create a safer place for yourself, your family, and our environment.

Never dispose of garden chemicals in drains.
Garden chemicals poured down street drains or inside drains harm fish and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean. Never pour any garden or yard chemical into street drains, inside drains, or into the garbage.

More is not better
If you must use commercial pesticides, always follow the directions for proper use.

Congratulations! You have taken the first steps to create a safer place for yourself, your family, and our environment. This guide will help you create a vibrant garden and do the earth a good turn by showing you how to:

- Create healthy soil
- Plant the right plants
- Reduce toxic chemical use
- Control pests naturally

You are encouraged to reduce or eliminate the use of garden chemicals. Misused or improperly disposed chemicals can harm fish and wildlife when:

- Poured down household drains
- Washed into storm drains by rain or overwatering
- Placed in garbage cans and seeping into our water supply

Local resources for the proper disposal of chemicals exist to help you. Keep reading for better alternatives.

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