

A-26 Landscaping Activities and Vegetation Management

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

- Train employees on the proper use and application of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Never apply pesticides and fertilizers if it is raining or about to rain.
- Do not apply pesticides within 100 feet of surface waters such as lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, and stormwater conveyance ditches unless the application is approved and permitted by the Washington State Department of Ecology.
- Determine the proper fertilizer application for the types of soil and vegetation involved. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and label directions.
- Clean up any spills immediately.
- Remove weeds/vegetation in stormwater ditches by hand or other mechanical means and only use chemicals as a last resort.
- Do not blow vegetation or other debris into the storm drain system, sidewalks, or street. Dispose of collected vegetation by recycling or composting.
- Use mulch or other erosion control measures when soils are exposed for more than one week during the dry season or two days during the rainy season.
- Ensure sprinkler systems do not "overspray" vegetated areas resulting in the excess water discharging into the storm drain system.
- New and expanding golf courses must have a Golf Course Management Plan as described in addressed in the *King County Golf Course BMP Manual*

Supplemental BMPs:

- Use integrated pest management (IPM); a comprehensive approach to the use of pesticides is the most effective BMP measure that can be taken for herbicide, insecticide, and fungicide use.
- Test soils to determine the correct fertilizer application rates.
- Use mechanical methods of vegetation removal rather than applying herbicides.
- Use native plants in landscaping. Native plants do not require extensive fertilizer or pesticide applications.

Additional Information:

- Storage of Pesticides and Fertilizers – Activity Sheets A-5
- Natural Yard Care Program:
<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/watering.asp>
- The King County Golf Course BMP Manual.
- The King County Noxious Weed Control Program provides best management practices for the removal of typical noxious weeds such as blackberry and purple loosestrife. Call 206–296–0290 or see:
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsandplants/noxious-weeds/weed-control-practices.aspx> for more information.

Washington pesticide law requires most businesses that commercially apply pesticides to the property of another to be licensed as a Commercial Applicator from the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.