



Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



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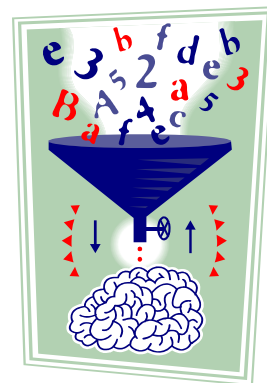
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Up Front

All you ever wanted to know about water quality issues but were afraid to ask. Community Partners is now offering information packets on various water quality topics for answers to your questions.

- **Landscaping at the Water's Edge to Improve Water Quality** discusses the importance of vegetation next to waterways (the riparian zone) and contains lists of the best riparian plant species.
- **Mosquitoes/West Nile Virus** can help ease your concerns by providing background and solutions for your mosquito problems.
- **Fertilizers** simplifies the chemistry of that "stuff" you put on your lawn and gives practical tips to maximize the effectiveness of every application.
- **Deicers** tackles the environmental consequences of deicers and how they can be avoided (and possibly save you money) while maintaining pavement safety.
- **Integrated Pest Management**, If you are excited to learn more after reading this eMonitor, we suggest this in-depth look at an alternative to chemical pest control.



If you have any questions regarding other water quality subjects not listed here, feel free to contact Michelle Bononi or Marisa London and we can customize a response that fits your needs.

Integrated Pest Management, Not as Complicated as it Sounds!



If you share your office/kitchen/lawn/trees and shrubs with "buggy" tenants that don't pay rent or are concerned about casually dousing your facilities with hazardous chemicals to get rid of insect pests, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the program for you. Integrated Pest Management is an approach to pest control that minimizes the use of chemicals in favor of consistent, safer, and less expensive means of eradication. Some of the

pesticides on the market are powerful neurotoxins or carcinogens, while others may be harmful to plants, and animals. Even people with mild allergies can be affected by pesticide applications.

Here are the basic steps that compose Integrated Pest Management:

1. When designing a landscape, choose plant species that naturally tend to be free of pests. Check the conditions of the planting area before purchasing landscaping; this includes sun exposure, soil type, soil pH, and irrigation. Healthy plants are also the least susceptible to pest invasions. And remember, preventing pests outdoors helps prevent pests indoors.
2. Monitor the area regularly to identify pest species and beneficial insects. If possible, keep a log of pest sightings and time to develop a better understanding of the problem.
3. Set a threshold level; determine the number of insects that can be tolerated. Sometimes it is impossible to completely eliminate pest populations. Small numbers of insects may not be a great annoyance but may be very difficult to eradicate.
4. If a site is near water, a dry pond, a drainage ditch, or public place, choose a pest control measure that minimizes harm to these sensitive areas.
5. Apply the least hazardous product.
6. Continually monitor the area after a technique is implemented to determine if it was effective.

Many IPM solutions are targeted to a pest and the scale of the pest problem. However, here are some basic control measures.



Proper sanitation-Keep trash bins sealed and the area around them clean. If possible, locate trash in covered containers away from buildings.



Proper food storage-Seal all open food containers.



Maintenance-Seal all holes and cracks inside the building. If you can fit a pencil inside a hole, a mouse can fit through it.



Remove insects and larvae from plantings by hand or with a vacuum.



Employ the pest's natural predators, parasites, pathogens, pheromones, and juvenile hormones to control pest populations.



Determine the best stage in the insect's life cycle and the best season to apply any hazardous product to maximize the effect on the pest.



If you must use chemicals, try using bait stations. These use a small dosage of the chemical and can eliminate a whole colony of pests.

For information or a more comprehensive plan, please contact Community Partners for Clean Streams.

CPCS News

New CPCS participants:

- Lodi Township
- Salem Township

CPCS participated in Huron River Days on July 10th. Huron River Days is a community celebration of the watershed that provides this area with natural beauty and recreation. CPCS was part of the EnviroChallenge for children. At our table, kids could create a stationary set using freshwater animal stamps and learn about protecting water quality. Information (and stamping opportunities) were also provided for the adults. Partner lists were also available.

Tip of the Month



July is often the hottest month in Michigan. While it may be important to keep your site landscaping “green”, don’t overwater your grass. To test to see if your lawn needs watering, just step on it! If the footprint impression remains in the lawn after lifting your foot, your lawn needs to be watered. If the grass springs back, wait to water it. Lawns typically need to be watered every 3-5 days.

Websites of the Month

This issue focused on the wise use of chemicals to eliminate nuisance animal life. Nuisance plant life control can be just as bothersome and expensive. There are alternatives to herbicide use in weed control. For more information, visit these websites:



Mississippi State University: msucares.com/pubs/infosheets/is1580.htm

The Organic Weed Management Website: www.css.cornell.edu/weedeco/WeedDatabase/index2.html

The Weed Science Society of America: www.wssa.net

CPCS Events

September 2005-**Washtenaw County Environmental Excellence Awards**: Awards are presented to businesses and institutions that are committed to environmental and water quality protection. Awards are given for overall excellence, excellence in water quality protection, waste reduction, and pollution prevention. Look for the awards ceremony date in the next issue.

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http://www.ewashtenaw.org//government/drain_commissioner/dc_cpcs.html

