



# SEASONAL HEALTH ALERT

## Lawn & Garden Care

Issued: May 2024

Contact WAPC at [mryuk@wapc.org](mailto:mryuk@wapc.org) with questions

### Pesticides & Fertilizers

Pesticides and fertilizers for home use, when used as directed on their labels, are unlikely to be toxic—they contain a relatively small amount of the actual pesticide or fertilizer. However, **using caution before, during, and after use (including storage) is still important to reduce the risk of injury or poisoning.**

#### BEFORE USE:

- **Read the label:** labels contain information about the active ingredients, potential toxicity, and specific safety measures to be taken. The label will additionally identify if a product is ready-to-use or concentrated (i.e., needs to be diluted). Follow the instructions closely for diluting products.
- If being used inside a building, **open windows and doors** to allow fumes to escape.

#### DURING USE:

- **Wear protective clothing:** protect your skin by wearing gloves and long sleeves, and protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses.
- If bare skin comes into contact with a pesticide/fertilizer, wash immediately with soap and water (not alcohol-based hand sanitizer). If a pesticide/fertilizer is splashed in the eyes, flush eyes immediately with lukewarm tap water, then call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222. If possible, have the container on hand when you call to help our specialists determine your risk and appropriate treatment advice.
- **Do not leave products open or unattended:** replace the caps and store up and out of reach of children.

#### AFTER USE:

- Even if you wore gloves, **wash your hands and any other skin that may have been exposed (such as your lower legs) with soap and water.**
- **Change clothing:** remove and wash all clothing immediately in a load by itself.
- **Store properly:** store pesticides and fertilizers in their original containers with child-resistant lids. Never transfer products to an unlabeled container. Place containers out of reach and sight of children and pets.
- **Dispose properly:** contact your local hazardous waste or waste management program to find your closest household disposal location.

### Lawn care

- **Gasoline and oils:** never store spent oil and gasoline in unlabeled containers. Storage in soda or drink containers can lead to unintentional ingestions and poisonings.

If you or a family member have been exposed to a pesticide or other lawn care product, call the Washington Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.