

SOP 7: CHEMICAL APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES, AND PESTICIDES

Purpose

It is important to properly handle, apply and clean up spills of fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides. Landscaping chemicals contain toxic pollutants that may be picked up by rainwater, enter storm sewers and directly pollute water of local rivers, streams or ponds. Excessive fertilizer application can also contribute to algae blooms and reduce oxygen in waterways.

General

1. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for mixing, application and disposal. ("Read the Label").
2. Spray to be mixed only in chemical building in the designated mixing area.
3. Chemicals are to be transported no more than approximately one mile from chemical loading facility.
4. Employ techniques to minimize off-target application (e.g. spray drift, over broadcasting) of pesticides and fertilizers.
5. Chemicals should be used and/or tank emptied at the end of each day.

Preparation

1. Make sure your state Chemical Handling Certification is complete and up-to-date before handling any chemicals.
2. Calibrate fertilizer and pesticide application equipment to avoid excessive application.
3. Use pesticides only if there is an actual pest problem.
4. Time and apply the application of fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides to coincide with the manufacturer's recommendation for best results ("Read the Label")
5. Know the weather conditions. Do not use pesticides if rain is expected within a 24-hour period. Apply pesticides only when wind speeds are low (less than 5 mph).

Clean-up

1. Sweep or blow pavements or sidewalks where fertilizers or other solid chemicals have fallen, back onto grassy areas before applying irrigation water.

2. Triple rinse pesticide and herbicide containers, and use rinse water as product. Dispose of unused pesticide as hazardous waste.
3. Always follow all federal and state regulations governing use, storage and disposal of fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides and their containers. (“Read the Label”)

Documentation

1. Keep copies of SDS sheets for all pesticides, fertilizers and other hazardous products used.
2. Record fertilizing and pesticide application activities, including date, individual who did the application, amount of product used, and approximate area covered.

Related SOP'S

1. SOP 8: Fertilizing & Turf Health
2. SOP 9: Weed & Pest Control
3. SOP 16: Alternative Products Use, Storage & Disposal
4. SOP 24: General Facility Housekeeping