

# Remember, you're not just getting rid of weeds and pests

## Choose earth-friendly landscaping

Did you know that herbicides and pesticides are harmful to our kids, pets, and the environment?

The chemicals in these materials pollute our waterways if washed from our lawns and gardens into storm drains or roadside ditches that lead directly to our lakes and rivers. Practicing earth-friendly landscaping in your yard and garden can help to protect kids, pets, and our waterways.

So what can you do? Simple.

- Select plants native to Nebraska. These plants require less fertilizer and water, and are more disease resistant.
- Avoid over-watering your lawn — it needs about 1 inch of rain per week.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help retain water, reduce weeds, and minimize the need for pesticides.
- Mow your lawn high — 3 inches is the rule. Follow your community's leaf pick-up guidelines. Try mowing grass clippings and leaves into your lawn — they make good fertilizers.
- Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and limit application to problem areas only.

Choose earth-friendly landscaping and help keep our water clean.

