Austin guide to... avoiding WEED&FEED

Atrazine, the weed killer most commonly found in many of the popular weed and feed products, is showing up at more than 70% of our groundwater monitoring sites city-wide and 50% of our surface water sites. This makes the problem more widespread and consistent than previously believed. To help you can:

Avoid Weed and Feed

(a combined fertilizer + weed killer product):

- Combined products are usually not a good mix

 the best time to treat weeds is NOT usually the best time to fertilize
- Spreading weed killer over the entire lawn is usually overkill
- Some lawn weed killers can stress and damage turf if applied during warm weather
- Using an herbicide over the entire lawn can harm nearby trees
- Chemicals can be tracked into the house on shoes or hands

Hand-pull or spot-treat weeds instead





As Austin grows, so does the use of fertilizers. While not fertilizers can help our plants grow, they can also cause washed into our waterways. Besides being unsightly, that amphibians.

Kill Weeds Without Weed And Feed

Right Preparation:

- Keep plants healthy so they can outcompete weeds
- Use a weed barrier in landscape plantings to block light and prevent growth

Right Product:

- Use a weed popper, hoe, or your hand(!) to remove plants when they are small and soil is moist
- Remove weeds regularly before they flower or go to seed
- Look for the Grow Green Weed fact sheet at nurseries or at www.growgreen.org to help identify your weeds -- many can be "mowed away" or easily hand-pulled
- If you must use an herbicide ... spot-treat with one that is made to treat your particular weed

Right Timing (for chemical treatments):

- A post-emergent (when weed is visible)
 herbicide is preferred it allows you to treat
 only where you know there's a problem and
 where you can correctly identify the weed
- If you must use a pre-emergent (before the weed is visible), only treat an area with persistent weed problems and tough weeds

Right Rate:

- Always follow the EPA-approved label directions
- Buy ready to use weed killers to reduce spillage and ensure the chemical amount is correct

vs, Not Creeks

atrients (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium) from e excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds when hese plants can rob the water of oxygen and harm fish

Fertilizing Quick Tips

Right Products:

- Organic fertilizer

 naturally slow
 release
- Synthetic fertilizer – slow release is best

Right Rate:

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to return most of the needed nutrients to the soil naturally
- naturally

 Tips apply for both do-it-yourselfers

 Measure your
 and lawn care professionals
 lawn size, not
 your property size (over-application is probably
 the greatest threat to water quality)
- Use half as much, half as often as recommended on the bag (1/2 lb. N/1000 square ft., no more than twice a year)

Right Timing:

- Spring Fertilization: April 15 (after the lawn has been mowed two times)
- Fall Fertilization: Early October (only necessary if lawn looks unhealthy)
- · Never fertilize before a rain

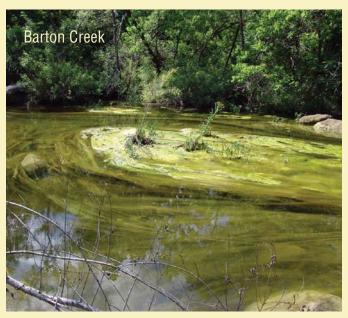
Right Method:

- Water in gently not to the point of runoff
- Sweep any fertilizer off sidewalks and roads

less is More!

Fertilizing just once a year:

- Saves time fertilizing
- Saves time mowing
- Saves water
- Saves money
- Saves our creeks



Algae in our creeks is often tied to excess fertilizer



www.growgreen.org



