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How Do My Yard Care Practices Affect Our Water?

Today on Gardening in a Minute: how do my yard care practices affect our water?

It's sometimes hard to see the effects of a single person's actions, but the practices that you follow in your yard can have a greater impact on Florida's water.

Any chemicals used in the landscape have the potential to enter our water, if they are misapplied. That's why it's essential to read the product label, and always follow all application instructions.

To manage pests, start with the least toxic methods available and go from there. Apply fertilizer only when plants need it, and follow the recommended rates. Always sweep up any spilled fertilizer and put it back in the bag.

If you live on a body of water, keep a ten-foot, maintenance-free buffer zone along the shoreline to help protect the water.

For more information about Florida-friendly landscaping and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.