

Storm Water Management Section

Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2005 Edition

Spring Into Action!

Tips on Proper Use, Storage and Disposal of Pesticides and Fertilizers



Spring is finally here and now is the time to think about enhancing the beauty of our lawns and gardens. Please remember that storm water pollution can be caused when pesticides and fertilizers are:

- Used in excess or when not necessary.
- Spilled on a surface such as a sidewalk or driveway, later to be washed away by rainfall.
- Applied before an expected rain, and washed into the drainage system.

Improper use of pesticides and fertilizers is a significant cause of water pollution. When pesticides and fertilizers are carried off by rain into the storm drain system, they eventually enter creeks, lakes and the Trinity River. Pesticides can cause serious damage to the ecosystem by killing fish, plants, and aquatic insects. Fertilizers cause algae to grow, which use up the oxygen, and may kill fish and aquatic insects.

Please remember the following tips when using, storing and disposing of pesticides and fertilizers:

Usage

- Read and follow directions on product label.
- Use only when needed and apply recommended amounts.
- Protect yourself with long-sleeved shirt, long pants, boots, goggles, rubber gloves and a hat.
- Apply these products on non-windy days or when rain is not in the forecast, to reduce the amount of chemicals that wash down the storm drain.
- Clean up spills immediately.

Storage

- If you keep a leftover mix, properly label the container with the name of the mixture, date and use information.
- If you store leftovers, keep the containers out of the reach of children and pets.

Disposal

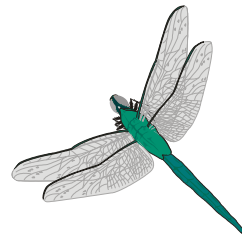
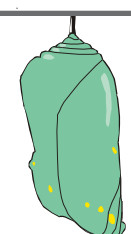
- Dispose of empty containers properly.
- Pesticide containers cannot be recycled. Read back of container for proper disposal.
- Prevent rinse water from coming into contact with pavement, the ground, or storm drains outside your house.

For non-chemical alternatives, visit: www.tceq.state.tx.us



In This Issue:

Trinity Trudy	2
Pet Waste Effects	2
Upcoming Events	3
Car/Truck Tune-Up	4
Recycling	4
Contact Us	4



Affix Address Label Here

Public Works and Transportation
Storm Water Management
320 E. Jefferson Blvd., Room 108
Dallas, Texas 75203

Do-It-Yourselfers

Spring Car/Truck Tune-Up



Remember to keep the storm drains free of oil, antifreeze, and other automotive fluids while conducting your Spring vehicle maintenance. Most service stations and garages accept used oil. As a Dallas resident you can take used oil, oil filters, antifreeze, or any automotive fluids to the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center.

If you would like us to make a presentation for your organization about storm water pollution, or permitting requirements, contact our Education Team at (214) 948-4022 and ask to speak with any of the following Education Team members:

- Gail Davis
- Denyse Jones
- Britt Montgomery
- Jim Veach

Spring Cleaning is Recycling Time



When cleaning out your home or garage, don't throw your old home chemical products in the trash or down the storm drain. Many home products contain toxic chemicals that can damage the environment and pollute drinking water. **Paint, home repair products, craft and hobby supplies, pool chemicals, cleaners and polishes, batteries, and lawn and garden chemicals** can all be recycled at the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center.

Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center:
11234 Plano Road, Dallas, TX 75243 (between Miller Road and Forest Lane, see MAPSCO 28-A). Provide a driver's license and a utility bill to verify city residence.
Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and the second and fourth Saturday of each month: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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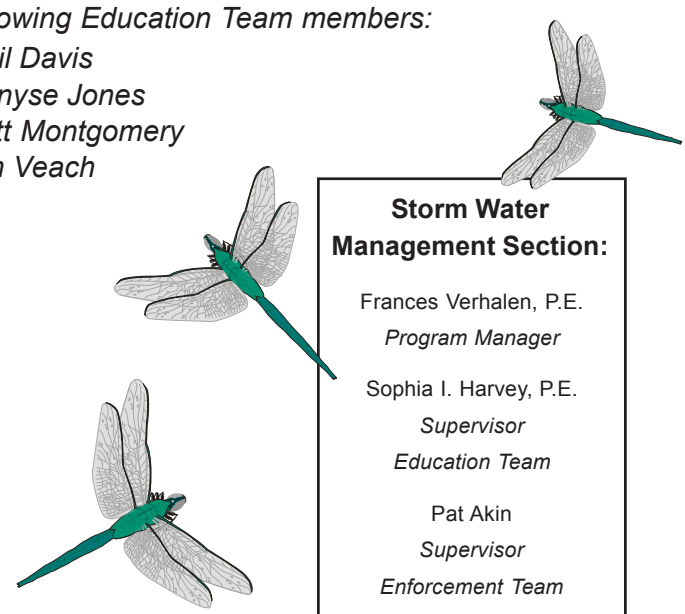
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The Trinity Trudy Story

Just for kids...

To find out whether water is clean or dirty, scientists go to rivers, lakes and creeks and see what kinds of creatures are living there. This is called bioassessment.

What does it mean if a scientist sees all kinds of creatures, including dragonflies? It means the water is good. What does it mean if a scientist sees only leeches and midges? It means the water is dirty.

Here's the deal: The Trinity River and the creeks and lakes in Dallas are getting dirtier and dirtier. If this keeps up, pretty soon Trudy won't have any place to live.

We need your help to keep Trudy in her home. Lots of things we do every day affect the quality of the water. One thing you can do to keep the water from getting dirty is to not throw trash on the streets or in the creeks, because it will end up where Trudy lives.

For more info, games, etc., visit www.trinity-trudy.org

Trinity Trudy lives in the Trinity River. But she can only live there if the water is clean.

You see, Trudy is a young dragonfly, that is, a nymph. Bugs like Trudy are called pollution-sensitive bugs. This means that they can't live in dirty water. When the water is dirty, Trudy and her friends can't breathe; and there's nothing for them to eat. Some of the other bugs that can't live in dirty water are the young mayfly, the water penny, and the whirligig beetle.

There are some organisms that can live in any kind of water, clean or dirty. These are called pollution-tolerant creatures. Some of these insects are the leech, the midge, and the black fly.



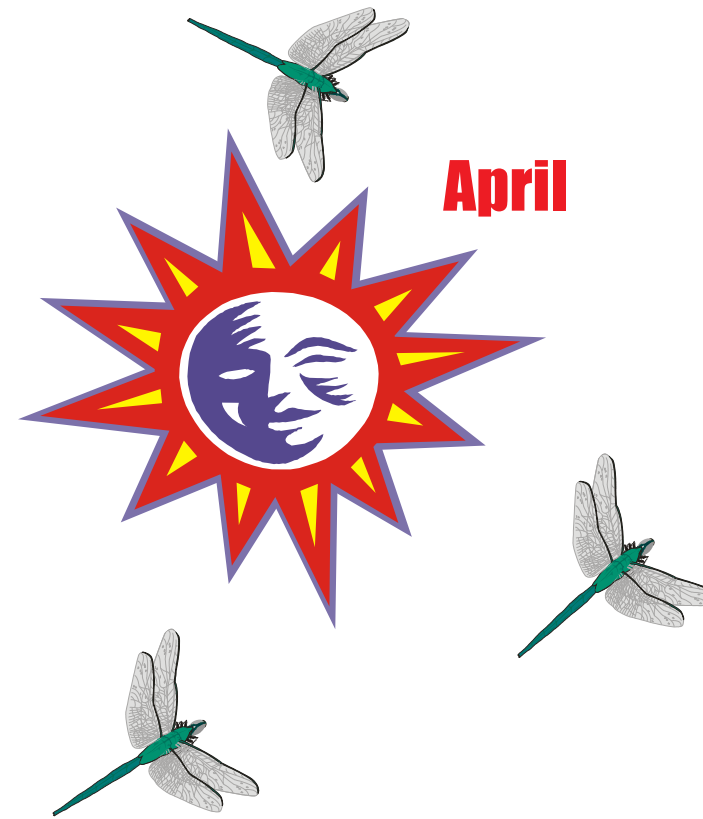
With warmer temperatures of Spring just around the corner, many of us are spending more time enjoying outdoor activities. These activities may include our family pets. However, many citizens fail to realize that the waste from our cute, cuddly pets (pet poop) can be a major source of non-point source pollution for our lakes, creeks, and rivers.

How does pet waste cause problems in our watershed?

Pet waste can runoff from our yards, streets, and parking lots, when it rains. The rainwater or storm water carries the pollution through the storm drainage system to the nearest surface body of water. This storm water does not receive treatment before it discharges or outfalls into a lake, creek, or river.

What effects can pet waste have on the water quality in a watershed? Pet waste contaminates our water supply with bacteria and nutrients. An overabundance of bacteria or nutrients in a water body can quickly deplete the available oxygen, causing the suffocation of fish and other aquatic life. Excessive nutrients can cause algal blooms on surface waters that disturb the food chain and reduce the amount of sunlight aquatic plants receive for photosynthesis. Elevated amounts of bacteria and nutrients in an aquatic environment can also create unhealthy surroundings for recreational activities like fishing and swimming.

What can one do to help prevent the pollution of our waterways by pet waste? Everyone can prevent this type of pollution by simply cleaning up after his or her pets. Individuals should wrap the waste (plastic grocery or newspaper bags work well for this) and discard it into the trash for disposal at the landfill. Preferably, the waste should be flushed down the toilet. Remember, reducing storm water pollution is as easy as scooping poop.



April

- 9** Earth Day Fair, Brookhaven College, Farmers Branch, TX, 12 Noon
- 22** EarthFest, Downtown Dallas, SBC and Pegasus Plazas, Dallas, TX, 11am - 2pm
- 23** Earth Day, DISD Environmental Center, Seagoville, TX, 8am - 4pm
- White Rock Prairie Fest, Bath House Cultural Center, at White Rock Lake Park, Dallas, TX, 9am - 3pm
- Earthfest For the Metroplex, Flag Pole Hill, Dallas, TX, 11am - 5pm
- 28** Earth Day, Cottonwood Trail Park, Dallas, TX, 9am - 2pm

May

- 7** Discovery Fest, Science Place Building, Fair Park, Dallas, TX, 8am - 5pm
- Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Pikes Park, Dallas, TX, 9am - 11pm
- 19** Construction Workshop on Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements, City Hall - L1FN, Dallas, TX, 8:30am - 1pm, RSVP required - call 214-948-4073 by 5-12-05

June

- 4** Xeriscape Tour of Homes, Dallas, TX. For more information call 214-671-9276
- 16** Industrial Workshop on Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements, City Hall - L1FN, Dallas, TX, 8:30am - 1pm, RSVP required - call 214-948-4073 by 6-09-05
- 18** Backyard Pond, Texas Discovery Gardens, Fair Park, Dallas, TX, 9am - 5pm

Outdoor Venture, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, Dallas, TX, 11am - 4pm