

LANDSCAPE

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Safe lawns, satisfied clients, sustainable business:

Suggestions for sensible landscaping practices in Chatham County, Georgia.



Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)

Natural Resources Division

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Landscape Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs Overview

BMPs are strategies proven to:

- ❖ **Save** you and your business money;
- ❖ **Maintain** safety in the workplace;
- ❖ **Provide** guidance on successful practices by others like you;
- ❖ **Protect** surrounding areas, water sources, and properties;
- ❖ **Decrease** negative impacts to wildlife and water quality in nearby creeks, lagoons, marshes, water ways, and Atlantic Ocean.



Keep debris from clogging storm drains and flooding roadways.

BMPs Protect Life, Land, & Licensing

Protect LIFE of humans and animals.

- ❖ **Read** labels of all pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers;
- ❖ **Wear** protective gear and clothing when applying;
- ❖ **Clean-up** any spills that you wouldn't want your pet or child to swim in.
- ❖ **Dispose** of surplus mixtures appropriately.

Protect LAND and property of clients.

- ❖ **Follow** instructions on all chemical labels;
- ❖ **Protect** groundwater- handle, mix, and store chemicals properly.
- ❖ **Apply** chemicals at appropriate time (like, not immediately before it rains);
- ❖ **Remove** lawn debris from property to prevent clogged storm drains;
- ❖ **Promote** beneficial organisms and biological controls when possible;
- ❖ **Ensure** irrigation system and sprinklers are working properly to save water and money.



Protect yourself and your business by maintaining LICENSES and certifications.

- ❖ **Use** correct amount of chemicals to prevent waste of products;
- ❖ **Obtain** and maintain proper training for required certification and licensing;
- ❖ **Adhere** to local ordinances and community rules on yard debris removal;
- ❖ **Establish** protocols and train your staff on policies for handling chemical spills.
- ❖ **Follow** state & federal licensing requirements for purchase, application, and storage of chemicals.
- ❖ **Utilize** secondary containment areas to recover and reuse spilled chemicals and rinsates.



Creeks, ditches, and lagoons should hold water and wildlife, not lawn clippings and yard debris.

Water is a valuable resource.

General Landscape BMPs

- ❖ Remove lawn debris and any lawn by-products to prevent clogged storm drains and standing water.
- ❖ Never blow or spray lawn debris into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or open body of water.
- ❖ Reduce water waste by using drip irrigation or keeping sprinklers from spraying streets and sidewalks.
- ❖ Keep mulch and bark in place. Use mulch or bark on top of plastic sheeting ONLY when area has edging to prevent it washing away.
- ❖ Repair broken or leaking sprinkler heads as soon as possible.
- ❖ Promote and install native plants that can tolerate local weather conditions and organisms.
- ❖ Consider alternative landscape techniques, like xeriscaping, to reduce water use.
- ❖ Minimize run-off by using automatic timers and moisture sensors on irrigation equipment.



Overuse and misuse of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers waste your time and your money. Use responsibly. Read the labels.

Pesticide, Herbicide, Fertilizer Use BMPs



- ❖ Pesticide application should be done only under the supervision of a Certified Pesticide Applicator.
- ❖ Read the label and follow all federal and state regulations governing use, storage and disposal of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- ❖ Use only what's needed by following all manufacturers' recommendations for mixing, applying, cleaning-up, storage and handling of pesticides and fertilizers.

- ❖ Broadcast is for radio stations, not fertilizers and pesticides! Tilling works best for most fertilizers and applications of pesticides should be targeted to the specific problem area.
- ❖ Spilled some chemicals? Sweep chemicals back onto grassy areas! Keep them from flowing into the storm drain and out into the local waterway. Don't put anything down that drain that you wouldn't swim in.
- ❖ Lock up chemicals and label chemical storage areas appropriately (50 ft from and around entrance.)
- ❖ Designate "no spray zones" near any water (hardscape or natural) or storm drain.
- ❖ Regularly inspect, maintain and calibrate all pesticide and fertilizer application equipment to ensure proper application rate.

Storage and Handling of Chemicals BMPs

- ❖ Store and mix all chemicals inside a covered paved area, known as secondary containment, so that spills or leaks will not come into contact with soil.
- ❖ Clean up any spills or leaks of pesticides and fertilizers promptly.
- ❖ Mix the *minimum* amount of pesticide that will be needed for the immediate job.
- ❖ Do not pour rinsate or surplus chemical mixtures onto the ground or into the storm drain.
- ❖ Use rinse water from cleaning of containers and application equipment as a diluent for the next batch of that pesticide or apply to target areas.
- ❖ Dispose of excess or leftover chemicals and empty expired pesticide containers according to instructions on the label –preferably on the target pest or vegetated area.
- ❖ Never dispose of excess, expired, or waste chemicals in the storm drain, on the ground, in drainage ditches or in any surface waters. Dispose of them according to manufacturer's instructions.

See storm drains that need to be marked?

Let us know!



GEORGIA'S CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES

License / Certificate	CEUs Required /Year	Who Needs License/Certificate	Other Notes
Georgia Commercial Applicator License	10 hours/ 5 years	Those who purchase, use, &/ or supervise the use of RUP* for a fee.	Valid for 5 years; Trainings are category specific.
Pesticide Contractor License		Those charging a fee for RUP* application.	License is category specific.
Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Certification	None	At least 1 person on site while soil moving is underway.	Varying course topics available.
Georgia Competent Applicators of Pesticide Program (GCAPP)	None	Those using non-RUPs (Master Gardener, homeowner, etc).	Voluntary, one time certification program.
Georgia Certified Landscape Professional (GCLP)	15 hours/ 3 years	Those who professionally install and maintain landscapes	Voluntary program that offers industry job skills.
Georgia Certified Plant Professional (GCPP)	None	Those in retail garden center.	Voluntary program that offers extensive plant identification training.
Certified Irrigation Contractor	10 hours/ year	Those working with irrigation systems.	Voluntary certification available in 6 areas.
Certified Sports Field Manager	3 CEUs + 9 pts/ 3 years	Those maintaining sports fields.	Requires exam and 40 Industry points for initial certification.
Certified Golf Course Superintendent	None	Those maintaining golf course grounds.	Must meet eligibility requirements & submit portfolio.

*RUP stands for Restricted use pesticides as classified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Do you, your crew, and your business have the required certification to use the pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that you have on hand?



For more information, contact the:

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