



*"Always working for
a safer and healthier
Skagit County"*

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NURSERY and GARDENS Best Management Practices

Run off from the garden area or nursery can contain high levels of organic solids and possibly pesticides and herbicides if these are used on the plants. The preferred first intervention in pollution prevention is to eliminate the source of pollution rather than treat. Even with treatment it is important to try to prevent solids and chemicals from reaching the drain.

Best Management Practices

To pursue the goal of prevention in the nursery area, please follow these best management practices:

- Group plants with like water needs together.
- Water per need, not on a schedule. Minimize water use to what is necessary for plants and do not create run off during watering.
- Use drip irrigation systems with collection and evaporation of excess water wherever possible. Secondary containment under the plant containers can control run off and allow excess water to evaporate rather than drain to the storm system.
- Sweep the nursery area regularly to remove soils and plant debris. Do not wash solids down the storm drain.
- Avoid the use of chemicals on the plants. If chemicals are used run off from plants should be considered contaminated and is not appropriate to go to the storm drain. The run off could be directed to sanitary sewer with approval from the sewer department.
- Establish barriers between plants and the storm drain that will intercept solids before they reach the drain. Clean solids from these barriers regularly.
- Investigate the feasibility of creating a plant storage area that is permeable to the soil rather than on impervious pavement. This will allow water to infiltrate slowly into the soil rather than run directly to the storm system.

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