



Reducing Nutrient Runoff

How Nurseries Can Help Keep The Rainbow Creek Watershed Clean

The Rainbow Creek Watershed is home to many nurseries just like yours. Activities conducted as part of operating a nursery can cause excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, to end up in Rainbow Creek and impact water quality throughout our watershed. Because of this, **nurseries are required to reduce nutrient contributions to protect water quality.**

To help nurseries meet nutrient reduction goals, the County of San Diego has identified several practices to adopt that reduce nutrient contributions and prevent pollution in our watershed. There are four main categories: Irrigation Management, Personnel Training & Record Keeping, Erosion & Runoff Management, and **Nutrient Management** (summarized below). For full details on these particular goals and information on all management goals, please visit www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT



PURPOSE: Prevent fertilizers from entering waterways.

Nutrients, like those found in fertilizers, need to be well managed to avoid spills, over-use, and other improper applications. Excess or spilled fertilizers can run off from your property and contaminate local waterbodies. Properly managing your fertilizers can prevent this type of pollution. The following practices will assist in meeting your nutrient management goals that help protect our watershed.

PRACTICES:

- ▢ Determine the type of fertilizer needed (if any) based on existing irrigation water, soil conditions & plant needs.
- ▢ Test irrigation water to monitor fertilizer, salt, and pH levels, and make adjustments as necessary.
- ▢ Know and follow all directions for proper fertilizer use, including how to apply, application rates, and proper storage guidelines.
- ▢ Create a fertilizer storage & mixing area as far away as possible from streams, creeks, and storm drains.
- ▢ In the fertilizer storage & mixing areas, include a concrete pad & curb to contain spills and leaks.
- ▢ Add a secondary containment feature to fertilizer tanks to contain spills and leaks.



DID YOU KNOW?

Over-fertilizing threatens water quality, can harm plants, and wastes money. Following these practices helps to keep your costs down and protects our waterways.

