

Ten things NOT to do in your Landscape

Craig R. Miller
Water Conservation Specialist
Parker Water and Sanitation District

Over Watering

- Hydrozoning is a key component of a xeric, water efficient landscape
- Trees cannot tolerate excessive moisture – roots need air as much as water!
- Over watering in the landscape results in shallow rooting

Under Watering

- Regardless of how xeric a plant is, it STILL requires SOME water!
- Under watering is hardest on young plants and newly installed plant material.
- In addition to direct root damage, under watering reduces winter hardiness, increases sensitivity to pesticides and deicing salts and increases frequency and severity of several diseases (Verticillium, Cytospora Canker, Dutch Elm Disease, Necrotic Ring Spot, Ascochyta Leaf Blight)

Over Planting

- Landscapes that have been over planted may look good initially, but become problematic in just a matter of years.
- Trees and shrubs are often planted too close to the house.
- Trees and shrubs need to be thinned out to support the mature size of the plant material.

Wrong plant in the wrong place

- Selecting a species that will get too large for the area
- Planting too close to the house
- Placing a tree under power lines

Improper Planting

- Improper planting is one of the top reasons for landscape failures. Among the prime offenders in this category:

- Planting too deep (includes trees that come from the nursery that are too deep in the root ball!)
- Leaving the wire basket/burlap and twine on the rootball
- Not removing tree staking and guying in a timely manner
- Use of plastic sheeting as a weed barrier instead of landscape fabric
- “Mulch Volcanoes”

Improper Mowing

- Mowing too low – not only stresses the turf and requires a higher level of maintenance (fertilization, insect and disease control), but also requires more water!
- “Lawn Mower Blight”

Misapplication of Herbicides/Fertilizers

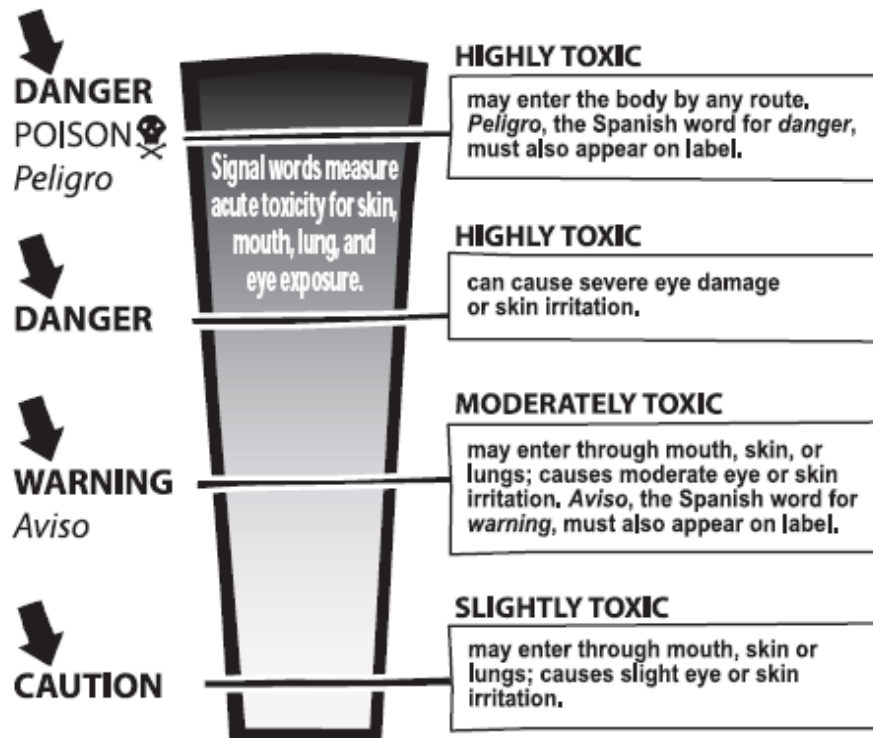
- Failure to read the label!
- Overuse of herbicides
- Over fertilization of turf
- Lawn weed control with Round-up



**The pesticide label provides vital info
about the safe use of a pesticide.**

Learn to recognize and understand Signal Words.

ALL pesticides must have a Signal Word on the label.



The pesticide label provides this and other vital info about the safe use of a pesticide.

Tree Abuse

- This topic not only includes watering issues and improper planting as previously covered, but most importantly.....
- Tree Topping
- Improper Pruning

Installation of inappropriate species

- Zoysia grass " ...out competes weeds, produces a lush green lawn, uses less water, etc."
(...but not adapted to our climate!)
- Aus Tree " ...grows 20 feet in 1 season!"
(...of course it does, it's a WILLOW!)
- Royal Paulownia " ...an amazing gift to humanity!"
(...and an aggressive, noxious weed as well!)
- *If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!*

Construction Damage

- Improper root cuts
- Grade changes