

Reduce Your Impact:

Talk to Your Landscaper and Pest Control Company.

Use this guide to start a conversation with your home and yard care professionals to solve common problems with safe and effective remedies.

Mosquitos

STOP: Using pyrethroid sprays and foggers that kill not only mosquitoes but also over 70 insect species including pollinators. **GREENWASH ALERT:** pyrethroids are NOT made from chrysanthemum flowers; that is pyrethrin.

DO: Eliminate standing water, use mosquito "dunks" in desired water features. Plant native plants in wet areas on your property. Use fans during outdoor gatherings. Wear long sleeves in evenings. Apply oil of lemon, eucalyptus, and safe-for-kids repellants containing Picaridin.

Owls and other birds of prey and Rodenticide

STOP: Pest control companies from setting out black boxes baited with anticoagulant rodenticide pellets. **DO:** Use snap traps. Try MouseX, made with ground corn — vermin eat the corn bait but can't digest corn and die after indulging.



Be bird friendly

STOP: Planting non-natives that do not support beneficial insect and bird populations. **DO:** Start swapping out non-natives for natives. Examples: hazelnut for buckthorn, spicebush for honeysuckle, wild strawberry for myrtle, milkweed for full-sun annuals.

Owls need darkness to hunt

STOP: Outdoor lights shining all night. They inhibit owls from successfully hunting and attract, confuse, and kill beneficial insects. **DO:** Install downward-shining lighting only and point them where you need light for safety.

Weeds in grass

STOP: Dicamba and 2,4-D. **DO:** Use high iron weed killers such as Fiesta or Weed Beater FE that are selective for broadleaf weeds and do not kill grass. High iron will hurt perennials and veggies.

Lawn fertilizer

STOP: Using granular or sprayed synthetic fertilizers and others such as Weed and Feed products that harm pets, water quality, and children. **DO:** Use organic fertilizers with humates. Spread finely sifted compost. Interseed grass with Dutch white clover.

Weeds in cracks

STOP: RoundUp/Glyphosate. **DO:** Use Natria, Horticultural Vinegar, or hand pulling.

Grub Control in Lawns

Count grubs before you treat.

STOP: Aloft (w/ both neonicotinoid & pyrethroid), Scott's Grub X (chlorantraniliprole), Dylox (organophosphate). **DO:** Use Milky Spore, beneficial nematodes or grubGONE!®. Most lawns have grubs. Before paying for treatment, determine if you have a true infestation, there are many YouTube tutorials. You may not need an annual treatment. Birds, squirrels, and firefly larva eat grubs.

Leaves

STOP: Using gas-powered leaf blowers for every leaf, leave some leaves; they are homes for beneficial insects and protect roots. **DO:** Collect leaves with rake, leaf sweeper or an electric mower. Chopped leaves are the best mulch. Mow through dry leaf piles to chop. Use for mulch or save in a leaf corral.

Tree health

STOP: Synthetic insecticide, fungicide and miticide applications on declining trees. Stop using neonicotinoid soil drenches to kill insects. **DO:** Apply leaf mulch under tree drip line. Encourage more birds. Find a company that specializes in integrated pest management (IPM) solutions. Replace declining trees and shrubs with more resilient native varieties. Some holes in leaves are part of a healthy ecosystem, healthy plants can easily withstand 10-20% herbivory.

Important: Read labels and know active ingredients and use restrictions before considering applying a pesticide (synthetic or organic). Before authorizing an application by a landscaper, ask yourself "is this a product I would feel safe applying myself?". If this answer is no, consider finding a different product.

Resources
Midwest Grows Green

Green Minds
Lake Forest · Lake Bluff