

Figuring out the best way to keep your property looking beautiful can be a difficult task. There's so much to plan — what to plant and where to plant it, and maintenance takes just as much, if not more, effort.

At the **Clackamas River Basin Council**, we're committed to helping homeowners find salmon-friendly solutions to their landscape problems.



Did you know that **more than 90 different pesticides** have been identified in our watershed? These chemicals can be harmful to the people and wildlife that use the river.



Let's keep the Clackamas clean for future generations!

By making use of some of the natural methods described in this brochure, you can become part of the movement to keep the Clackamas clean. Many of these methods are also cheaper than purchasing pesticides, helping you to **keep your hard-earned cash.**

Our pesticide reduction outreach is funded by



*Questions? Comments?
We'd love to hear from you!*

**Just email info@clackamasriver.org
or call (503) 558-0550.
You can also visit our website,
www.clackamasriver.org**

You can also contact our partners

Clackamas River Water Providers
<http://www.clackamasproviders.org>
(503) 723-3510

Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
<http://www.conservatordistrict.org/>
503-210-6000

OR Dept. of Agriculture: Pesticide Division
<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/index.shtml>

OSU Extension Office: Master Gardeners
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>
(503) 655-8631

**OSU Extension Office: North Willamette
Research and Extension Center**
<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/>
503-678-1264

Alternatives to Pesticides



A guide to
keeping your lawn growing green
and the Clackamas running clear

An ounce of prevention...

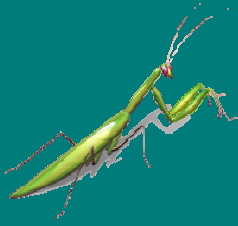
The best way to deal with a noxious species is to stop it before it starts. There are quite a few simple ways you can plan for a weed-free future.

Go Native! Plants from Oregon are well-adapted to the region's climate, with our hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Choosing the proper plants and planting them in the right places will insure they've got a fighting chance against any weeds or insects that might "pest"-er them. Try to plant a variety of plants, and rotate them if possible. This will make it more difficult for pests to establish long-term populations.



Be vigilant. It's easier to spot and stop an infestation if you're in your garden often. If you notice just a few weeds or rodents, take proactive steps to be rid of them as soon as you can. It's much easier to remove one Himalayan blackberry than an entire field full.

Attract beneficial insects. You may already do this if you plant a variety of different species. You can also purchase critters online (or possibly from your Soil and Water Conservation District). Good insects to invest in include ladybugs, praying mantis, nematodes, lacewings, and beneficial wasps.



...and a pound of cure.

If you do happen to run into a pest problem, don't fret—you're not alone! We've compiled some tried and true methods for ridding yourself of unwanted plants and animals.

Enlist professional help. The Clackamas County Master Gardeners program operates a free service out of the OSU Extension office in Oregon City. Just take in a sample of whatever is impacting your garden, or the damage it has caused (gnawed leaves, damaged bark, rotten roots, etc).



Black plastic and tarps can be helpful in killing off large infestations of weeds. Leave your barrier of choice on top of the weeds for one growing season, and you'll have plenty of room created for planting the next season. Be eco-friendly and recycle or reuse the plastic.



Boiling water can be used against weeds that are clustered together in smaller spaces such as sidewalks and driveways. Be careful when using boiling water, as it could damage desirable plants (or the pourer!).

Collars and netting are good barriers against insects. Place fine mesh around taller plants to keep flies out, or create a stiff paper collar and bury an inch deep in the soil around plants plagued by worms or burrowing insects.

Copper sheets placed around the borders of where your plants are growing will discourage snail and slug activity. Just be sure the area is free of slugs and snails before the copper is installed, as the animals could get trapped inside.



Lasagna gardening If the weeds you've got are plaguing a patch of land, consider creating a raised bed through lasagna gardening, which uses layers of material to simultaneously kill weeds and create new soil. Create a two- to three-foot thick raised bed of layers, alternating "green" materials (vegetables, grass, and trimmings) with "brown" (cardboard, newspaper, or fall leaves). Keep your casserole moist as it decomposes, and you'll have a plantable area, no digging required!



Soil Amendments can help improve the quality of your soil, and by extension, the health of your plants, keeping them strong enough to ward off pests. Contact the Master Gardeners or the Soil & Water Conservation District to get a test kit to find out what minerals and nutrients you may have too much or too little of.