

# Plant & Tree Nurseries

## Stormwater Best Management Practices



Storm drains are found in our streets and parking lots. You probably walk by a few of them a day, but just don't think much about them. Storm drains are put in place to gather stormwater runoff and bring to our local waterways (rivers, lakes, washes, and retention basins). Storm drains don't remove any pollution before entering our waterways. Stormwater runoff is now one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up dirt, trash, oil, grease, chemicals, and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots and streets. So, if plant and tree nurseries aren't careful with disposal and cleanup procedures, they could be harming the environment. With the right knowledge, staff can prevent pollution from entering storm drains, therefore, helping to improve the water quality in local waterways.

## What Can I Do?

- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers; do not apply if rain or wind is predicted.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a covered area and in sealed, waterproof containers.
- Cover stockpiles of potting mixes, soils, or mulch with roof or tarp
- Avoid overwatering to prevent runoff.
- Compost plant waste instead of disposing it in streets, waterways, or the storm drain system.
- Properly dispose of chemicals; do not pour into sink, floor drain, storm drain or in the street.
- Keep spill containment kits handy—use dry clean-up methods instead of hosing spills into the storm drain.
- Train employees to practice pollution prevention; post best management practice guidelines.



For additional information or questions, please contact:

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department

Stormwater Quality Program

2222 S 27th Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85000

602-506-5557

[esd.maricopa.gov](http://esd.maricopa.gov)



Environmental Services  
Department