

Mixing Chemicals

By: Melinda Sperl

There are many products that were available to treat yards. Some products have been found harm our environment like DDT or Diazanone. Some products are still available but only to those licensed for use as pest control applicators.

Over N Out, used as a Fire Ant Bait, has been discontinued because one of the main ingredients is responsible for reducing the honey bee population. As you know, bees are extremely important to our environment for agriculture and flower pollination.

When products are first introduced in the market and sold as intended they are generally safe, but as they hit the general population the rules get stretched and labels don't get read. Liquid products are notorious for being mixed incorrectly, such as when mixing concentrated Round Up. Many people mix it heavier than product instructions believing it will kill their weeds faster or better with a stronger mix, when in reality the stronger the mix, the less effective it is. The excess is just extra chemical being washed down the storm drains.

Always read and follow the labels and we can keep some good products around. Just stay away from Atrazine! Your trees will thank you.

Happy Gardening!

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