RESPONSIBLE PEST CONTROL

1. **Use IPM (Integrated Pest Management)**

IPM is defined as an effective way to address pest problems. Rather than applying chemical pesticides on a routine schedule, people who practice IPM use pesticides only when and where they find unacceptable numbers of pests. They choose and time the treatments to control pests while trying not to disrupt natural controls, such as beneficial organisms. An IPM program aims not to eliminate pests totally, but rather to keep the number of pests below levels at which they cause too much damage.

A. Prevent pest problems with proper pruning and watering

B. Monitor plants for pest and disease problems and solve them while they are small

C. Control pest problems using physical and mechanical methods

D. Control pests using biological controls

E. Encourage beneficial insects

F. Use least toxic methods first

G. Use pesticides as a last resort

H. Always read the label of any pesticide including organic

I. For more information on ipm go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

2. **Eliminate high input lawns**

A. Plant groundcovers, shrubs or trees

B. Replace lawns, especially steep slopes, shady areas with native meadows or grassy swales.

3. **Mulch and Compost**

    A. Mulch is one of the quickest, easiest and most cost-effective ways to suppress weed growth

    B. Keep mulch and compost in its place by using berms

    C. Store mulch and compost away from storm drains

    D. Use gravel or cobblestone in areas of high water flow

4. **Minimize Impervious Surfaces**

    A. Typical family yards have 25 to 50% asphalt and concrete. This water runs into the storm drain.

    B. Use rock, cobblestone, or mulch for a striking element design while keeping water out of the storm drain. This allows water to seep into the ground where the plants can use it.

5. **Plant Trees**

    A. Trees absorb pollutants

    B. Trees decrease runoff and protects water quality

Benefit:

- Use less water
- Use less pesticides
- Use less fertilizer
- Save money