The protection of our environment is of concern to everyone. Misuse of pesticides can have adverse effects on the environment and on the personal safety of gardeners and their families. Quick chemical treatments are not a substitute for sound gardening practices. Given the variety of plantings and diverse maturity dates of crops in a home garden, it is difficult to comply with pre-harvest intervals, application rates, and other restrictions associated with specific pesticides. Therefore, alternative pest control methods may be more appropriate.

Oregon State University, other land grant universities, and federal and state agencies focus substantial amounts of time and money toward developing agricultural pest management methods that rely less on the use of pesticides. OSU Extension Master Gardeners are encouraged to become familiar with these alternatives, which are a part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

OSU Extension Master Gardeners should explore all types of research-based information appropriate to their local climate. Clients are given several possible methods for solving their pest problems, including cultural, mechanical, biological, and least toxic. When giving recommendations, clarify that the information is based on research, personal experience, or written materials. The client determines which method to use.

You will receive training during your OSU Master Gardener classes that will enable you to give recommendations that fit our policy guidelines. This contract will serve as a formal basis for OSU Extension Master Gardener involvement in pest control recommendations.

1. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener my pest control recommendations must be limited to home, lawn, and garden problems; questions concerning commercial crop production, commercial pest control, aquatic weed control, and pesticide liability are to be referred to the county Extension faculty member.

2. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener I may recommend a chemical for home and garden pest control only if that use has been recommended by OSU or other approved resources.

3. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener I may recommend biological control organisms or other non-chemical alternatives for home and garden pest control only if the recommended use is contained in current OSU Extension publications or other publications recognized as credible by OSU scientists.

4. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener I will provide both non-chemical and chemical pest control recommendations, allowing the client a choice of strategies.

5. I understand that pesticides must be applied with care and only to plants, animals, or sites listed on the label and recommended by OSU. When mixing and applying pesticides, all label precautions must be followed to protect the applicator, other persons, and the environment. It is a violation of the law to disregard label directions. If there is any apparent conflict between label directions and the pesticide uses suggested by OSU publications, the county Extension faculty must be consulted.

6. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener I am not required to be a licensed pest control consultant to recommend pesticides registered for home and garden use.

7. I understand that as an OSU Extension Master Gardener I am considered a volunteer representative of OSU. Therefore, OSU will assume liability for my pest control recommendations, but only if my recommendations are limited to control measures that are recommended by OSU for home and garden use.

___ Yes, as an Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener I will subscribe to the above requirements.

___ No, I cannot subscribe to the above policy, and I understand that I therefore cannot be certified as an Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener.