

Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Pest Control Recommendation Agreement

Part of your work as an OSU Master Gardener is providing recommendations on managing pest problems. Those recommendations may include using pesticides to solve the problem. Misuse of pesticides can have adverse effects on the environment and on the personal safety of gardeners and their families. Inappropriate pesticide treatments are not a substitute for sound gardening practices. Alternative methods may be more appropriate for managing pests in home gardens.

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 and more on an integrated approach to pest management. OSU Master Gardeners are encouraged to become familiar with the process of Integrated Pest Management, as it applies to the home, lawn and garden.

OSU Master Gardeners should explore all types of research-based information appropriate to their local conditions. Rather than being prescribed a particular solution, clients are given several possible methods to manage pest problems. These methods may include cultural, mechanical, biological, and chemical controls that are safe and effective. When giving recommendations, clarify the source of the information (e.g. Extension materials, research papers, or personal experience). The client determines which method to use.

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

1. I understand that as a 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 specialist.
2. I understand that as a 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 a Master Gardener I may recommend biological control organisms or other nonchemical 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 a Master Gardener I will provide a summary of effective and safe pest management recommendations, which may include nonchemical and chemical pest management options, 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 pesticide 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 federal 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 specialist must be consulted.
6. I understand that as a Master Gardener I am not required to be a licensed pest control applicator or consultant to recommend pesticides registered for home and garden use.

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

Please check one of the following, sign, and return with your materials fee and application form.

____ Yes, as an OSU 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 OSU Master Gardener.

Signature _____

Date _____

Printed name _____