

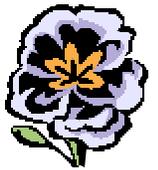
## P2 is in the Garden!

When you use **mulch** in your garden to control weeds instead of a chemical weed killer, you are **practicing pollution prevention or P2**.

Just because you have a “**green thumb**” doesn’t mean you are a “**green Gardener.**” Did you know that many **non-polluting alternatives** exist for eliminating unwanted weeds and other pests? Turning your garden into a healthy, productive and **pollution-free paradise** is possible.



“Most people depend on commercial garden supplies as the first and only means for controlling unwanted weeds and other pests in the garden” explains Dave Hartley with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. “One goal of **National P2 Week** is to make gardeners more aware of **various alternatives** that exist, and the important role these alternatives have in **preventing pollution** from ending up in our water, soil, and air.”



To improve your garden’s contribution to building a **cleaner environment**, the following techniques are recommended:



- **Control weeds by hand picking** them and then applying mulch from wood chips or grass clippings. This mulch also acts as a natural fertilizer, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Eliminate bothersome snails by turning your garden into a “beer garden.” This **guaranteed snail catcher** is as easy as filling a shallow pan with beer, sinking it to ground level, and picking the snails out in the morning.
- Introduce **friendly insects** such as ladybugs, ground beetles, and praying mantises to rid your garden of uninvited pests. Visit your local nursery to learn what plants will attract these insects into your garden.
- Cut down on the amount of yard waste you create by **grasscycling** – leaving grass clippings on the lawn, or xeriscaping – using native, slow growing plants that don’t require as much trimming.
- Do not fertilize or spray pesticides when rain is forecast within 24 hours. **Stormwater runoff** can carry fertilizer and pesticides to the storm drain system and then the local creek degrading water quality.



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