

Poorly designed or badly managed landscaping can increase yard maintenance costs, waste natural resources, and pollute the environment.

“Sustainable landscaping” practices can produce significant economic and environmental benefits.

SOUND BITE: Ken Decio, Waste Management and Market Development (CIWMB). “What we’re trying to do is work with local jurisdictions and, uh, the commercial landscaping industry, um, to promote landscaping practices that reduce green waste, conserve water, and protect water quality in our local creeks and rivers. Um, we think that one of the most cost effective ways of managing green waste is to not generate as much of it in the first place, so we’re promoting such things as proper watering, fertilization, pruning, GrassCycling, um, use of water efficient landscaping, native plants and of course, use of compost and mulch. Um, not all of green waste can be, uh, reduced on-site, so, then material that is produced we like to see it turned in to compost and mulch. So if you have any questions about how we can be of assistance, and uh, encouraging sustainable landscaping practices you can go to our website at ciwmb.ca.gov/organics.”

“GrassCycling”, composting, and mulching return valuable organic material to the soil, which increases the water-holding capacity of soil, reduces erosion, and conserves water.

SOUND BITE: Ken Decio, Waste Management and Market Development (CIWMB). “GrassCycling is an excellent way to keep green waste out of the landfill. Basically, ‘GrassCycling’ is the natural recycling of grass by leaving the clippings on the lawn when your mowing. The clippings decompose quickly and release valuable nutrients to the soil. The main thing to remember is, use the one-third rule. Only cut one third the length of the blade at any one mowing so that the clippings are short and they’ll decompose quickly. If you would like to find out more about “GrassCycling, visit our website at www.ciwmb.ca.gov.”

Proper watering, fertilizing, and pruning along with Integrated Pest Management will promote healthier, disease-resistant plants, and reduce the amount of polluting pesticides, fertilizers, and other toxic runoff entering creeks and rivers.

With sustainable landscaping, GrassCycling, and IPM programs activated, you will reduce your landfill load and help the soil as well!

End Chapter 10