



Use of Herbicides and Insecticides in the Yard

It is best to view the use of pesticides as a final resort to an intolerable pest problem. If used judiciously and applied appropriately at label-recommended rates, pesticides can be effective tools for control. The user must be sure to wear the proper protective equipment. Pesticide use is of particular concern when the homeowner hires a commercial company to spray regularly for weeds or mosquitoes. Since short-term customer satisfaction is the primary goal of the chemical applicator, there is more concern about over-reliance on pesticides.

Herbicides are a mixture of active ingredients and the solution in which the ingredients are dissolved. Generally, herbicides are safer to use than insecticides because the active ingredients in herbicides are molecules that interfere with chemical reactions that occur in plants but not animals.

In contrast, insecticides often target biochemical processes in animal nervous or respiratory systems, making their use a much greater concern. Read the label carefully before using any pesticide and follow the instructions. More is not better!

To learn more go to www.sccoastalpesticides.org. The pesticide application tool website was developed by a partnership of the LowCountry Institute, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the University of South Carolina and Clemson Extension Service.