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USING PESTICIDES SAFELY

- Identify the problem and the pest.
- Consider all control options, including alternatives to pesticides.
- Choose the lowest toxicity pesticide that can be used legally on the target area.
- When mixing or spraying concentrated pesticides, use separate containers for insecticides/fungicides and herbicides (weed killers). If you mixed a herbicide in a container last week, and use the same container to mix an insecticide this week, you risk killing the plants you are spraying.
- Read and follow labeled instructions.
- WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, especially gloves and a respirator.
- Change clothes and shower after spraying.
- Never eat, drink, smoke, or touch your face until your spraying is done.
- Always mix chemicals outside. Avoid spills and unneeded exposure to vapors.
- When mixing wettable powders, add a small amount of water to the powder, mix into a paste, then add the remaining water.
- Mix only the amount of chemical needed to complete the job.
- Don't dump excess mixtures; use it up.
- Never use cooking utensils to measure chemicals.
- Avoid exposure to the sprayed area for 24 hrs or at least until the foliage is dry. **CHECK THE LABEL FOR REENTRY TIME!**
- Rinse and flush spray containers.
- Triple-rinse containers containing pesticides and use the rinse water as part of the spray solution.
- Avoid spraying in the heat of the day, on windy days, or before a rain.
- Dispose of unwanted pesticides through your community household hazardous waste collection site. **DON'T THROW THEM IN THE TRASH.**
- Keep pesticides in the original containers.
- Keep pesticides from freezing, extreme heat, and high light conditions.
- **PESTICIDES ARE TOXIC CHEMICALS AND SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH CARE, ACCORDING TO LABELED INSTRUCTIONS.**

At Garden Gate Greenhouse, Inc., we are extremely concerned about your welfare and safety. Take the time to learn how to use pesticides safely. Make an investment in protective equipment. These two steps will give you optimum effectiveness and help you to avoid long-term physical health problems.