

# IMPACT

 University of Idaho  
Cooperative  
Extension System

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## Pesticide Safety for Homeowners

### *The Situation*

The Minidoka County Extension office receives numerous calls relating to insect identification, disease diagnosis, fertilizer rates, and proper pesticide selection. However, little attention is given to pesticide safety and fertilizer management. These concepts are often viewed as farm topics; as a result, homeowners may improperly apply pesticides and fertilizers and make little to no use of protective equipment during application.

### *Response*

This past summer, University of Idaho and Washington State University publications were displayed in local businesses that sell home and garden products. Topics ranged from calibration of applicator equipment, proper use and selection of fertilizers and pesticides, and spray schedules for insects and diseases.

### *Goals*

- Homeowners will at least use the minimum required protective equipment when applying pesticides.
- Homeowners will learn to calibrate their pesticide and fertilizer applicators resulting in efficient use of products and reducing possible water/soil contamination problems.
- Homeowners will increase their general knowledge about pesticide classification, target pests, application timing and proper pesticide selection.

- Homeowners will become aware of the services offered by the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System and Master Gardener Program.

### *Achievements*

The publications could not be distributed until late June, about two months later than planned. However, between 35% and 55% of each publication was taken by the public. This indicates that all topics were equally important.

If the information contained in these publications is followed, better use of pesticides and fertilizers should result.

Other benefits:

- Increased awareness and enrollment in the University of Idaho Master Gardener Program.
- Increased awareness about the Minidoka County Extension office.

### *Cooperators*

Ace Hardware  
Cenex Co-op  
Wal-Mart

### *The Future*

Publications will be offered again next spring. In addition, University of Idaho Master Gardener volunteers will be present once a month at each site during the spring and early summer to answer

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questions and assist in promoting pesticide safety awareness.

### ***For More Information***

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