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Be Careful with Chemicals

I just visited a lawn where many of its flowers had wilted and died. The owner was understandably upset. All of her hard work lost. The plants had characteristic herbicide injury. She got her weed-n-feed mixed up with regular fertilizer. The morale of the story is to be very careful with and have a healthy respect for chemicals. They are designed to be very effective at what they are made to do, so misuse or using them in an unlabeled fashion can be very dangerous.

First of all, no matter what your neighbor or anyone tells you the label is the law and must be strictly followed. One of my favorite sayings is "They Say is the Biggest Liar in the World." Especially when using chemicals, don't do what others advise you to do, just read and follow the label directions.

Next, there is a lot of useful and needed information on a chemical label. I know labels are lengthy, boring, and very technical, but you need that information to make a proper application of the chemical. Labels contain all types of information from the active ingredient to how to apply the product properly. Would you spray an unknown liquid all over your home, lawn, and the food you eat.

Next, what happens if something goes wrong? Put it this way you just need to know what is on that label! Finally, this coming January anyone that is paid to apply any chemical in someone's yard must have a commercial applicators license. A person with a commercial applicators license must take a very comprehensive test and have proof of insurance. In other words, they must know how to apply chemicals properly, effectively, and safely and be covered by insurance when something goes wrong.

To keep up with gardening trends, watch both of our Emmy Award winning gardening programs Making-It-Grow (MIG) and More-Making-It-Grower (MoMIG). MIG can be seen at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights on regular ETV. However, at present MoMIG can only be seen on digital cable and some satellite systems on the SC Channel (channel 802 on Time Warner Cable). To give more of ya'll a chance to watch, we would like to get MoMIG aired on regular ETV. To help us, please go to www.myetv.org and click on Contact Us and send them an e-mail asking them to air MoMIG on regular ETV.

To learn the specifics on gardening we have both free and for-sale publications at our office in the back of the Public Services Building on the corner of Third Loop and Irby. You may also visit our Home & Garden Information Center through our web site at www.clemson.edu/florence. I may be contacted through our web site, amelton@clemson.edu, or 661-4800.

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