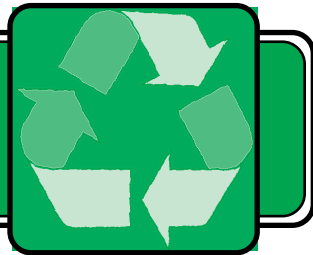


Yow! Watch out for yellow jackets!

Environmental Focus



The distinct yellow and black markings of bees and wasps are meant to warn us that these insect sting. Of all stinging bees and wasps, yellow jackets (a kind of paper wasp) are among the most volatile and quick to attack when disturbed. They can be a problem when they build nests in and around human dwellings. In late summer, their colonies grow to contain thousands of workers.

Many people get stung when working in the yard. Yellow jackets defend their nests vigorously and readily when someone disturbs their nest's entrance, often in the soil near railroad ties or landscape timbers.

Locations that attract yellow jackets are dumpsters with leaking soda pop cans, under fruit trees that have fallen, fermenting fruit, and beaches and picnic areas where people are drinking sweet liquids. Why are these places attractive to yellow jackets? Yellow jackets

feed on fruit juices, sweet liquids and fermenting fruits. Even though the adults feed on sweet fruity liquids, they capture high-protein insects that they feed to the young grubs in their nest.

Simple noninsecticidal ways to discourage yellow jackets are: rinse cans that have held fruit juices or pop and cleanup fermenting fruit under trees. Refuse in trash cans should be sealed in heavy plastic bags to discourage leakage. Garbage pickup should be frequent. If fruit juices have leaked, the area around the trash can or dumpsters should be washed down. If you are eating outdoors, drink sweet/fruity liquids in covered, rather than open containers.

Also, you might consider trapping yellow jackets around dumpsters and picnic areas. One company that manufactures traps is Farnam Companies, Inc. located in Phoenix, Arizona. Their non-toxic, disposable

Trap-A-Jack™ attracts and traps other flying insects in addition to yellow jackets. Product information and local distributors is available at 1-800-234-2269.

How do you destroy a yellow jacket nest? *Very carefully!* Aerial nests can be controlled by spraying an aerosol insecticide or aerosol into the opening and then wetting down the nest's surface. Nests in the ground are best controlled by using a dust formulation in its entry as workers will contaminate the nest by tracking the insecticide into the nest. You may need to use a duster to force dust into the opening. Be sure to read the label before purchasing any insecticide to make sure it is labeled for wasp control. Always follow all directions carefully.

Because bees and wasps are active in the daytime, apply insecticides in the evening or nighttime when all insects are in their hive. Nighttime application is also very important to keep the applicator from getting stung. (BPO)

Ants are public enemy #1

Barb Ogg
Extension Educator

According to a 1994 Gallup study, ants are the number one pest complaint in the U.S. followed by mosquitoes and spiders. Adults in single family homes were polled about pest problems and household pesticide products. In all parts of the U.S., ants were reported as a problem more often than any other pest. In Nebraska, there are 14 ant species that invade homes—most frequently in the warmer months.

If you are among the 39

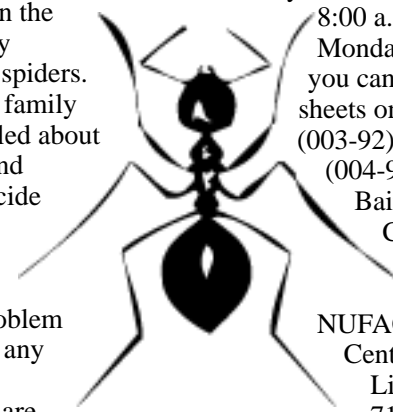
percent of Midwesterners that have ants in their homes, do not reach for the ant and roach aerosol until you have checked out information at the Lancaster County Extension office. From

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, you can pick up fact sheets on Ant Control (003-92); Carpenter Ants (004-95); and Ant Baits: A Least-Toxic Control (267-95).

Or, you may call the

NUFACTS Information Center anytime (in Lincoln—402-441-7188) and listen to

message numbers 754 (Carpenter Ants) and 751 (Ant Control Using Baits).



Watersheds & water quality

A **watershed** is a geographic area that is defined by the lay of the land. High points in the landscape form a ridge that outlines a natural bowl or basin. Within a watershed, all of the runoff from rainfall, snowmelt or irrigation drains to a common outlet, such as a stream, river, lake or wetland.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some cover thousands of acres and include farms, forests, towns and cities, while others are only a few acres in size and just include the lawns and gardens of a few homeowners.

Land use within a watershed influences both the quantity and quality of runoff. Generally, as the intensity of land use

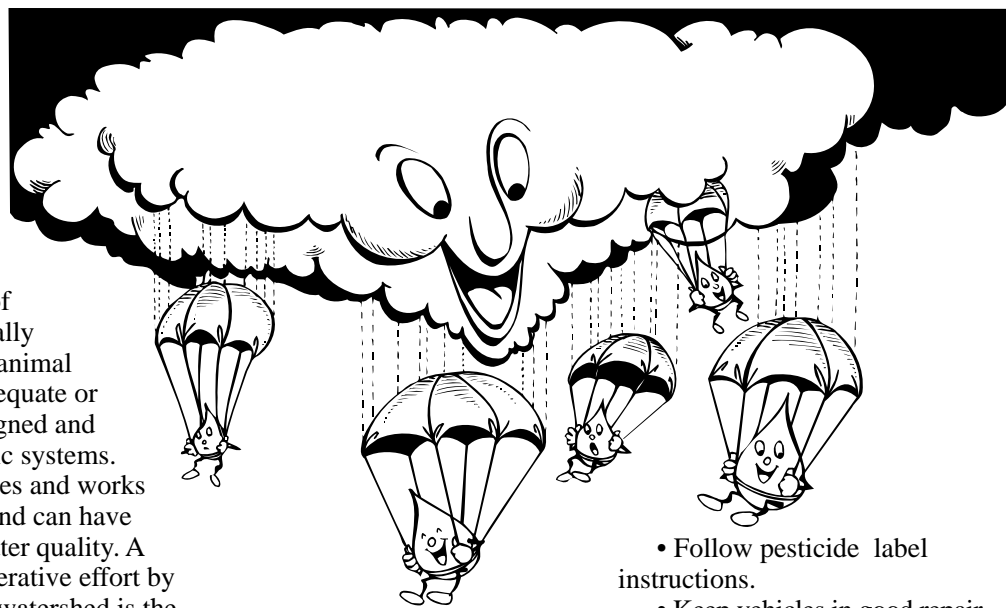
increases, runoff volume and velocity increase. At the same time, the number of potential sources and types of pollutants increases. Runoff carries these pollutants directly into streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. Because most of this pollution comes from many dispersed sources throughout the watershed, it is referred to as **nonpoint source pollution**.

The most common nonpoint source pollutants are sediment, plant nutrients, pesticides and bacteria. Potential sources of sediment include soil eroded from cultivated fields, construction sites, streambanks and ditches. Plant nutrients come from fertilizers, detergents, livestock and pet waste, septic

tank effluent, sediment and organic materials such as leaves and grass clippings. High concentrations of bacteria are usually associated with animal wastes and inadequate or improperly designed and maintained septic systems.

Everyone lives and works in a watershed and can have an impact on water quality. A conscious, cooperative effort by everyone in the watershed is the key to preventing runoff pollution. (CB)

What can YOU do?
• Manage runoff.



- Prevent soil erosion.
- Conserve water.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.

- Follow pesticide label instructions.
- Keep vehicles in good repair.
- Compost grass clippings and leaves.
- Reduce household hazardous waste.
- Maintain septic systems.

New items accepted at recycling sites

Lorene Bartos
Extension Educator

New items are being accepted at several Lincoln and surrounding area recycling sites. These items include mixed paper and laundry detergent bottles.

Mixed paper will have its own container and should not be placed or mixed with newspaper. Mixed paper includes all types of paper products, all catalogs, junk mail, office paper, construction paper, molded paper items (such as egg cartons, blank newspaper used for packing material), wrapping paper, greeting cards and telephone directories. Place in brown paper grocery sacks to recycle.

Colored plastic bottles having a number 2 inside their triangle on the bottom of them may be recycled with milk jugs at all recycling sites. Plastic bottles such as juice, detergent, bleach,

shampoo, dishwashing liquid or floor cleaners are also accepted. Motor oil, gas treatment and lawn chemical plastic bottles are NOT accepted. Bottles that are accepted should have a neck smaller than their base. Almost all should have a twist top lid. To prepare plastic or glass bottles

for recycling, remove lids and neck bands; labels are okay. Cereal boxes, shoe boxes, detergent boxes and gift boxes may be recycled with the corrugated cardboard.

Mixed paper is accepted at the following sites:
NORTH LINCOLN

Russ's Market, 63rd Street and Platte Avenue
Sam's Club, 4900 N. 27th St.

Southeast Community College, 88th and O Streets
University Place, 47th and St. Paul Streets

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Food Stores Warehouse, 1200 North 17th Street
SOUTH LINCOLN

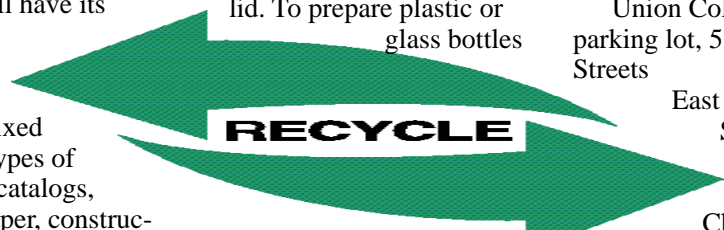
Union College, athletic field parking lot, 53rd and Calvert Streets

East High School, Seacrest Field parking lot, 70th & A Streets
Christ's Place

Church, 1111 Old Cheney Road
AREA SITES

Bennet
Hickman
Waverly

Reduce your trash today by recycling. Check out your nearest recycling center. For more information on recycling sites or how to recycle, call the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, 441-7180 or the Lincoln Recycling Office, 441-8215.



Nebraska State 4-H Camp NatureLink weekend September 6-8

NatureLink, a family oriented outdoor education program, will be held at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Halsey, September 6-8, 1996.

The focus of this NatureLink weekend will be on learning about the outdoors. Participants will attend learnshops on fishing, canoeing, pond/river studies, camping and outdoor cooking, archery, camp crafts, and sandhill's ranching. Previous experience or knowledge in these areas is not required—the sponsors welcome novices who want to learn and have fun in the process.

"NatureLink offers a great break for a family to get out in the country and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. You get hands-on experience, relaxing time away from home and some excellent ideas on how you can conserve and enjoy the earth's

natural resources," says Extension Educator, LaDeane Jha.

Registration deadline is August 2. Program fee is \$80.00 per person; children 5 and under are free. Fee includes program materials, lodging, meals (Friday supper through Sunday brunch). Family scholarship money may be available to pay family registration fees.

To register, or for more information, contact LaDeane Jha, 441-7180 or the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Box 87, Halsey, Nebraska, 308-533-2224.

This program is sponsored by the Nebraska State 4-H Camp, National Wildlife Federation, American Greetings, Upper Loup Natural Resources District, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Nebraska National Forest, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the Nebraska Forest Service. (LJ)