



Reducing Nutrient Runoff

How Nurseries Can Help Keep The Rainbow Creek Watershed Clean

The Rainbow Creek Watershed is home to many nurseries just like yours. Activities conducted as part of operating a nursery can cause excess nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, to end up in Rainbow Creek and impact water quality throughout our watershed. Because of this, **nurseries are required to reduce nutrient contributions to protect water quality.**

To help nurseries meet nutrient reduction goals, the County of San Diego has identified several practices to adopt that reduce nutrient contributions and prevent pollution in our watershed. There are four main categories: Irrigation Management, Nutrient Management, Personnel Training & Record Keeping, and **Erosion & Runoff Management** (summarized below). For full details on these particular goals and information on all management goals, please visit www.projectcleanwater.org/download/rainbow-creek-nutrient-reduction-and-management-plan/.



EROSION & RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE: Prevent erosion & reduce runoff from leaving your property.

Water from rain events can run off from your property, carrying sediment, fertilizers, and trash with it. Hillsides or areas that are bare are more prone to erosion and properly managing these sites can prevent erosion and reduce runoff. The following practices will assist in meeting erosion and runoff management goals that help protect our watershed.

PRACTICES:

- ❑ **Improve soil infiltration & water holding capacity to reduce water from running off.**
- ❑ **Evaluate areas of your property that may be more prone to erosion and runoff issues, such as bare soil areas, hills/slopes, roads, and roofs. Once determined, take the following actions to protect and reduce runoff of erosion-prone locations.**
 - Establish vegetative cover or apply mulch to bare soil areas to prevent erosion and help absorb water to reduce runoff
 - Use vegetated buffer strips and grass swales to prevent erosion and trap sediment
 - Convert paved areas or bare soils around greenhouse roofs to vegetation to help absorb water
 - Direct runoff from roofs to existing vegetated locations, rain barrels, or retention ponds for re-use
 - Stabilize vehicle entry/exit locations to prevent tracking of sediment off-site
- ❑ **Properly maintain all erosion and runoff practices to ensure that they are operating effectively.**
- ❑ **Capture excess irrigation & stormwater for re-use.**
 - Create a retention basin with the help of an engineer
 - Develop a specific written procedure for properly managing retention basin levels to prevent both wet and dry (non-precipitation) weather overflows

DID YOU KNOW?

Controlling erosion and runoff will prevent sediment and water, which can both carry excess nutrients, from leaving your property and entering our waterways.

