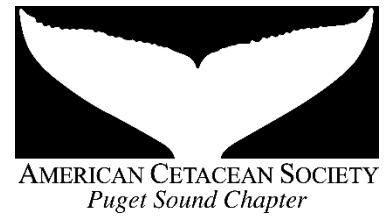
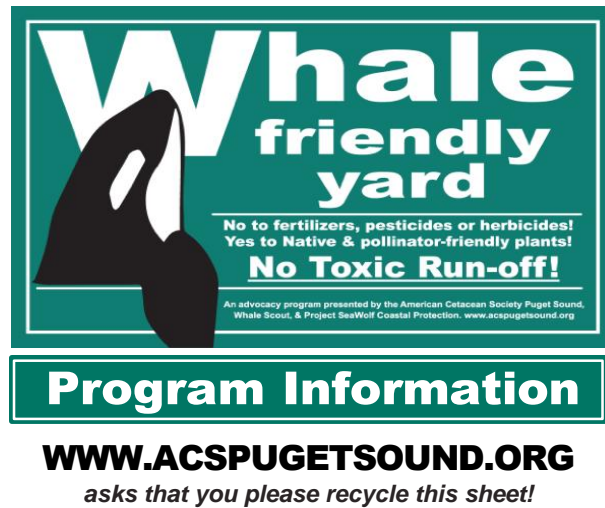


*These signs were produced with the help of many public donations. If you support what we are doing with this campaign, a small contribution will help us print more signs for the following garden season. Donations are certainly NOT required - but they are immensely appreciated!*

*If you're able to help, please use the QR Code on the right.*

**THANKS!**



Donate to ACS-PS

Thank you immensely for taking part in this wonderful public education effort! By placing one of these signs in your yard, you are helping to educate friends and neighbors about the vibrant connection between our yards, and the rivers and streams running into the beautiful Puget Sound all around us! **These signs are made to withstand the weather and rain for up to the whole year, but if your signs wear out, we'll gladly send you another one!**

As an environmentally-friendly homeowner, you have also pledged to limit your use of toxic chemicals and dangerous herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, to limit your level of yard watering, and to practice new and improved methods of yard care such as using a mulching mower, or "grass-cycling," which means leaving your grass clippings on the yard after cutting to help naturally fertilize your garden!

You're taking an important step to improving the health of our neighborhoods too; you see, the health of our ecosystems (and that includes us as well!) is influenced by what we, as homeowners, do to our yards. Most people don't realize how much damage some of our lawn care chemicals can do to the plants and animals living in the streams and rivers around us. Every time it rains, these chemicals wash off our yards and driveways, into the stormwater drains, and into local rivers and streams. Chemicals can harm birds and fish, and fertilizers promote the growth of algae that choke streams and rob fish of valuable oxygen. Pesticides can also be very dangerous to children and pets, and are even more dangerous to marine mammals.

You'll also be doing your part to help preserve water by limiting the amount you use on your lawn. Research has shown that up to 40% of our summer water supply is used by yard watering. By adopting a few new gardening habits, you can help to reduce the amount of water you use, while also decreasing the size of your utility bill! Here are some hints to help you in becoming an environmentally (and orca!) friendly homeowner:

◆ **Replacing your lawn with native and drought resistant plants;** this is one of the best ways to reduce toxic chemicals, water use, & runoff. It also provides cooling shade!

◆ **Avoid using 'weed and feed' or other herbicides/pesticides;** consider organic or 'slow-release' fertilizers. Check labels - avoid deadly chemicals such as Diazinon at all costs.

*continued over...*

- ◆ **Mow high, mow often and leave your grass clippings behind;** taller grass means less run-off and healthier yards. Healthier yards are less likely to grow weeds.
- ◆ **Water sparingly and aerate your lawn;** aeration helps the water penetrate deeper into the roots, where it will do best. If you water occasionally, but deeply, it will be better for your yard.
- ◆ **Use native plants;** Native plants require less maintenance and care and provide habitat for all kinds of insects, birds, and wildlife.

There are many valuable resources available to help you learn about protecting orcas, salmon, and the environment. By contacting some of these agencies and environmental organizations listed below, you learn more about natural yard care techniques that are beneficial to the environment and to the children and pets that you may have playing around your yard. Many environmentally-friendly alternatives exist to help you cope with common yard problems – including regional problems such as crane flies and weed infestation. To make it easier, we've compiled a few of them for you below.

Finally, we hope that your new lawn sign will generate productive discussion in your neighborhood. By placing this sign in your yard, you've made it clear that you understand the role that all of us must play in protecting our orcas, salmon, eagles, and our entire ecosystem! You should be proud of the example that you are setting – we certainly are! Thanks for showing your neighbors that you care about our environment! Please visit the useful links below for more information about environmentally-friendly gardening practices and alternatives to toxic chemicals.

**Snohomish County Surface Water Management -**  
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/208/Surface-Water-Management>

**Seattle Public Utilities Salmon Friendly Gardening –**  
<https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/sustainability-tips/landscaping/for-residents/choosing-the-right-plants>

**Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force -**  
<https://stillysnofish.org>

**Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society -**  
[www.mvihes.bc.ca](http://www.mvihes.bc.ca)

**Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides -**  
[www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)

**WA Dept. Of Ecology -**  
<https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/puget-sound/protecting-orcas/how-you-can-help-orcas>

**Snohomish Conservation District -**  
<https://snohomishcd.org>

**Saving Water Partnership -**  
[www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org)

**Whale Scout -**  
[www.whalescout.org](http://www.whalescout.org)

**American Cetacean Society - Puget Sound Chapter –**  
[acspugetsound.org](http://acspugetsound.org)

**Project SeaWolf Coastal Protection -**  
[www.projectseawolf.org](http://www.projectseawolf.org)

