

ECO-Agent



WHAT YOU OTTER KNOW ABOUT
AGRICULTURE AND GARDENS

IS
"PHOSPHATE OVERLOAD"
RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW?

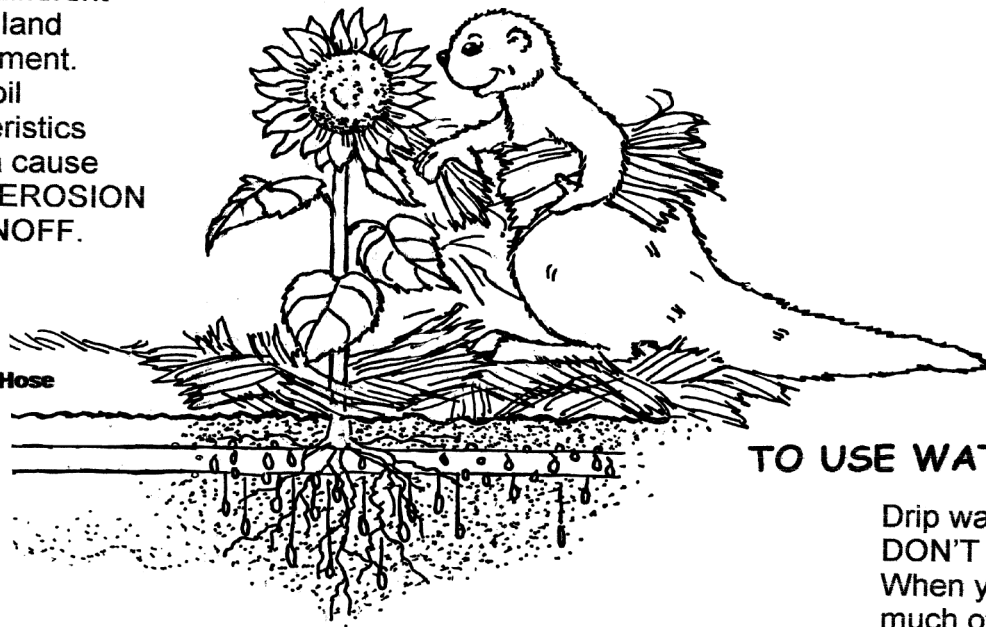


KNOWING YOUR SOIL TYPE CAN HELP YOU PREVENT EROSION AND KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

The soils found in the Lake Winnepesaukee area farmlands and home gardens can have a silty loam texture or a gravelly loam sand texture (or anything in-between).

Different soil types will require different kinds of land management. Some soil characteristics can be a cause of SOIL EROSION and RUNOFF.

Hay
Mulch
Soil
Soaker Hose
Soil



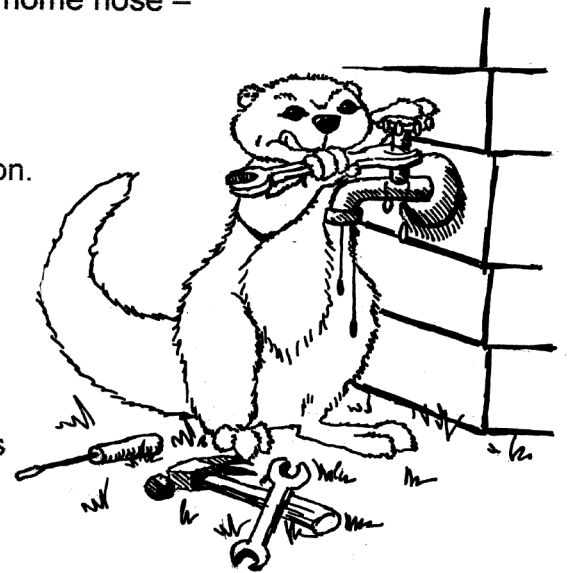
Use mulch, such as straw, hay, leaves or bark to help keep the ground wet longer.

FARMERS ARE DOING MANY THINGS TO PREVENT EROSION - AND KEEP FERTILIZERS, SEDIMENT AND OTHER POLLUTANTS OUT OF THE LAKE

- Keep farm animals out of the streams because their waste can pollute.
- Keeping the animals' "bath water" out of nearby streams.
- Dispose of dead animals properly.
- Plant or leave trees and shrubs as well as a grass buffer along streams.
- Reduce the use of chemicals and fertilizers.

TO USE WATER MORE EFFECTIVELY IN YOUR GARDEN

Drip water from your home hose – DON'T SPRINKLE - When you sprinkle, much of the water is lost through the process of evaporation. Many farmers use DRIP IRRIGATION, you can too. It saves water by placing water near the roots. An area of your garden which would take 20 gallons of water using the sprinkle method would need just 5 gallons if you use the drip method.



Fix any leaking faucets.

YOU CAN USE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES TOO -

- Plant trees, shrubs and grasses to filter out pollutants and reduce runoff.
- Compost grass and leaves and apply compost to gardens.
- Reduce fertilizers.
- Use mulch to reduce your water use.
- Mulch or seed areas which are steep and subject to erosion to keep soil in place.
- It is important to read the directions when using fertilizer at home



NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION (NPS) SOURCES ...

... are hard to identify because NPS does not come from one specific source. We do know this type of pollution is the largest contributor to surface water pollution in the United States; and we know it is a result of many types of land use (construction, forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) Agriculture is a source of NPS which farmers, ranchers, gardeners and other land use planners are working to prevent.

ACTIVITY

Visit a local farm and ask them to explain what they do to protect water quality (it is polite to call and make an appointment first)