

# Streetscene Sustainable Herbicide Use



# Pesticides

- Pesticides, also known as 'plant protection products' (PPP) are used to control pests, weeds and diseases. Examples include insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators.
- They can exist in many forms, such as solid granules, powders or liquids and consist of one or more active substances co-formulated with other materials.



# Regulations

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) is the national regulator for the UK, on behalf of the UK government and the devolved administrations.



HSE aim to ensure that pesticides do not harm human health or have unacceptable effects on the environment by:

- enforcing the regulations
- ensuring only authorised products can be marketed
- ensuring products are used in a sustainable fashion
- monitoring the impact of the chemicals

# Regulations

- Anyone applying for authorisation of a product must provide an extensive range of scientific and technical data. Through this data, they must demonstrate that the product is effective and humane and poses no unacceptable risks to people (including users, local residents and bystanders), wildlife and the environment.
- Only when the Government is satisfied with the above data can authorisation be granted for the product.

## **Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products**

- This Code of Practice is for all professional users of plant protection products in England and Wales in respect of Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) and the regulations controlling pesticides,
- The Code's statutory basis means that it can be used in evidence if people are taken to Court for offences involving PPPs.

# Pesticide use by Streetscene

- Fungicides and pesticides – used to control disease in turf



- Herbicides – used to control plant growth

# How We Ensure Safe Use at FBC



- All operatives applying Chemicals have undergone accredited training and hold a certificate of competence in the safe use of pesticide.
- FBC roadside grass verges and grass open space chemical treatments are applied using controlled droplet technology. It is a sealed and ready-to-use format and, as such, there is no risk of spillages, while the delivery system allows for extremely accurate application and virtually eliminates spray and run-off.

# How We Ensure Safe Use at FBC

- The Council uses a small variety of chemicals including glyphosate-based formulations to treat invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and to prevent weed growth around street furniture.
- Most herbicide that include Glyphosate based products are usually used just once a year as part of a sustainable integrated control programme in parks, open spaces and on Highway verges to help control growth around obstacles so that the current grounds maintenance resource can maintain a reasonable standard of presentation of the borough's public grassed areas at an affordable cost.
- Japanese knotweed is treated up to three times a year to ensure we safeguard the Council from the plant spreading to neighbouring properties and therefore, potential claims. Glyphosate is the only active ingredient that is approved for use in or near water. This is an essential tool for the control and eradication of hazardous weeds such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed growing near water courses.

# Good practice at FBC



Operatives are clearly identified when undertaking herbicide application by wearing hi-viz vests with the wording *Herbicide application in progress* on the back to inform residents of the work.



The Grounds Maintenance page on the Council's website indicates the current Ward that herbicide application on roadside verges and open space is taking place to help keep residents informed.

# Pesticide users in Fareham

- Residents – Own gardens, drives, patios etc.
- HCC Highways – Weeds on adopted highway hard surfaces. Roads and footpaths once per annum.
- Farmers – Crop and vegetation management.
- FBC – Areas of responsibility in the Public realm.
- Local Businesses – To keep their sites in good order.

# Alternative Weed Control

## Hot Water



- **Manual control** – use of strimmers, weed rippers and hand tools



# Alternative Weed Control

## Flame



## Hot Foam



# Alternative Control Comparisons

Method	Speed of Application	Root Kill	Staff Resource	Cost	Access	Annual Applications
Chemical	Fast	Very good	Low	Low	All	1-2
Manual	Slow	Partial	Higher	Higher	All	4-6
Hot Foam	Medium Pace	Good	Higher	Higher	Restricted	3-4
Hot Water	Medium Pace	Partial	Higher	Higher	Restricted	4-6
Flame	Medium Pace	Good	Higher	Higher	Restricted	4-6

# Next Step?

## **Pesticide Policy**

Create and adopt a Council Policy on pesticide use.

- Policy will ensure the Council continues to comply with HSE requirements to only use approved products passed as humane that pose no unacceptable risks to people (including users, local residents and bystanders), wildlife and the environment.
- The Policy would show how, where, when and why the Council uses pesticides and what measures are being considered to reduce pesticide use.
- The Policy can highlight details on any reductions in pesticide use that have already been achieved, good practice undertaken and what alternative methods are being employed and where.

# Questions

