

# Spring Application of Herbicides for Total Weed Control

May 2009

# A M E N I T Y

## ADVISORY BRIEF

Total Weed Control demands careful planning, management and expert application to ensure that 'Best Practice' is followed and 'Best Value' achieved. Six Key Steps should be followed for each individual location:

**1. Identify** the weed problem, **2. Decide** on the measures to be used, **3. Define** the surface type, **4. Select** the product, **5. Assess** the site to locate water courses and drains to ensure that the necessary precautions are followed to prevent contamination of water **6. Check** for any special stewardship guidelines.

### 1. Identify the Weed Problem

Identify all weeds growing at the site, determine weeds likely to germinate and grow at the site. Check if any species are covered by regulations e.g. Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

### 2. Decide on Control Measures

Consider the use of an integrated programme of mechanical and chemical weed control. Assess the different costs, effectiveness and environmental impacts. Check if weed control is needed for the whole season.

### 3. Define the Surface Type

On all pesticide labels there is a 'statutory box/area' containing the conditions of use for the product. This includes a description of the 'Fields of use'. Always check to see the pesticide is approved for the situation you propose to use it. Plant-free areas in the amenity sector where total weed control is required can be divided into three types. See Table Opposite.

### 4. Select the Product

Check the label if to confirm target weed species will be controlled. There are a number of active ingredients which have approved labels for this area of use. **Use the Table below to identify if the product is suitable for the type of weed and the surface you are treating.**

<b>Natural surfaces not intended to bear vegetation *</b>	Soil
<b>Permeable surfaces overlying soil</b>	Man made Gravel/pebbles over soil
<b>Hard surfaces</b>	Man made Pavements, tarmac, concrete, Railway ballast
* On some labels also referred to as 'Non-crop area' or 'Land not intended for cropping'	

Products or Combinations Containing	Pre- weed emergence (residual & root acting)	Emerging and Established weeds (contact/translocated action via foliage or roots)	Surface Type		
			Natural	Permeable	Hard
Amitrole	X	√	√	√	O
Dicamba	X	√	√	X	X
Diquat	X	√	√	√	√
Diflufenican	√	X	√	√	X
Glyphosate	X	√	√	√	√
Glufosinate- ammonium	X	√	√	√	X
MCPA & 2,4-D	X	√	√	√	O
Picloram	√Σ	√	√	√	X
Sulfosulfuron	√	√	√	√	X
Triclopyr	X	√	√	√	X

Σ - For application to bracken

O - Only certain products are approved for this surface. Check the label carefully before use

**Always use Professional BASIS Registered advice to select the product**

# Spring Application of Herbicides for Total Weed Control

## 5. Assess the Site

Ensure Best Practice is followed at all times. Take extra care to prevent water contamination.

- Know the location of all water sources.
- At the filling station avoid spills, use induction or closed transfer systems and never wash spills into drains.
- Use a bunded filling area wherever possible.
- Take water directly from a storage tank, bowser or mains with a double check valve.
- Never fill near a watercourse.
- Ensure all rinsing of seals, lids, mixing equipment is over the induction bowl or tank.
- Avoid spills in transit, do not overfill equipment.
- Return empties to base and dispose through a waste disposal contractor.



## 6. Check

- Advice has been provided by a BASIS registered advisor.
- Operator (s) is fully NPTC qualified.
- The contractor operators and sub-contractors are NPTC qualified and registered with NRoSO or BACCS (BASIS Advanced Contractors Certification Scheme).
- Trailed, mounted or self-propelled equipment is tested by the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS).
- Knapsack and hand – held equipment is checked regularly using the knapsack checklist or has been tested under the NSTS. All equipment is calibrated regularly.
- Additional information and the Amenity Pesticide User Checklist can be downloaded from:



[www.amenity.org.uk](http://www.amenity.org.uk)

[www.nroso.org.uk](http://www.nroso.org.uk)

[www.nsts.org.uk](http://www.nsts.org.uk)