

# AMENITY BEST PRACTICE GLYPHOSATE USE ON HARD SURFACES



## Hard surfaces

are defined as those surfaces where water runs off to drains rather than permeating through the soil. e.g. Tarmac® roads, pavements, concrete and paving slabs.

## Background

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide for weed control in amenity areas and is chosen both for the high level of efficacy and its safety for man, animals and the wider environment.

Glyphosate is strongly bound to colloid particles in the soil and is not easily leached from soils or permeable surfaces, so the risk of reaching water courses is primarily from point source pollution during the spraying operation and run-off from hard surfaces.

## EU regulation

The Sustainable Use Directive and the Water Framework Directive aim to reduce the risk from pesticides minimise pesticide use in public areas and reduce their occurrence in water.

Future use of glyphosate could be threatened by non-compliance with these EU Directives. E.g. The Environment Agency has powers to restrict use should glyphosate detections threaten water quality status. Amenity users must follow Best practice at all times in order to comply with new regulations on water pollution and maintain the current approved uses.

## BEST PRACTICE

**The Code of Practice for the safe use of Plant Protection Products should be followed at all times during the spraying operation– with particular reference to these factors:-**

- Choose a safe and reliable UK approved glyphosate formulation
- NEVER exceed maximum label rate
- Use the minimum rate required to control the toughest weeds present, but do not use sub-lethal doses which can increase the risk of resistance development
- Do not contaminate watercourses when mixing, filling, spraying or during disposal.
- Calibrate and operate equipment properly to ensure no drift to non-target areas
- When using conventional sprayers use nozzles at pressures which produce Medium or Coarse but never fine droplets,(BCPC definition).
- When using CDA equipment droplets must be a minimum 200 microns.
- Consider prior notification in sensitive public areas & keep full records.

## Integrated Pest Management.

Weed control using an integrated approach is recommended but in many situations glyphosate will be chosen as the most cost effective and environmentally friendly method of treating weeds on hard surfaces in the amenity sector.

## SPECIFIC BEST PRACTICE MEASURES FOR HARD SURFACES:-

- Do not blanket-spray weed-free areas. Spot treat manually or using weed detection units. Use the full recommended rate but only apply to visible weeds. The total amount of herbicide used can be reduced by up to 80% depending on the weed density & run-off reduced by >90%.
- It is acceptable to overall spray a 30 cm strip along the kerb edge and road gully.
- Do not overspray drains or within 1 m of watercourses.
- Spray only when rain is not expected within 6 hours.
- Avoid unnecessary spraying. Ensure contract wording allows flexibility, such as treating only when weeds are present, not by fixed calendar dates.
- Integrate road sweeping policies ensuring sweeping occurs a minimum of 5 days after spraying and at least 2 weeks before spraying.