



PRESS RELEASE

THE ADO ABOUT GLYPHOSATE

On the 28th June, just two days before the licence was due to expire, the EU Health and Food Commissioner confirmed an 18 month extension for the use of glyphosate in herbicide treatments. Meaning for the next 18 months, it's business as usual for those involved with using and selling Glyphosate. This is certainly shorter than would normally be expected but it is, as such, a re-approval and immediate legal obligations are met. There will be further detail emerging about any conditions on this extension in due course.

Throughout the protracted and, in many ways, unprecedented re-approval process for glyphosate, the Amenity Forum has been closely involved and always sought to emphasise to all concerned that any conclusions should be based upon the science and evidence. The delays in the process have had substantial impact on all aspects of our very important and essential sector and certainly made decision making very difficult.

John Moverley, Chairman of the Amenity Forum, explained, " Due to the delayed decision, one of our members has had to make preparations to cancel weed control work as they were unable to commit to being able to continue spraying. As you can imagine it's been extremely stressful for all that use Glyphosate. Further to this, other members have been affected in terms of quoting for future contracts for weed control on our public transport networks, essential for public safety. Not knowing if glyphosate might be available has created real difficulties and concerns.

Those involved in invasive weed control have wondered how they might operate and undertake this essential task. It has been made even more difficult for all involved in the sector to understand the delays given that, following the rigorous process of re-approval, the outcome was the conclusion that glyphosate was safe to use and should be re-approved. The ensuing political arguments bringing matters to a last minute decision have not been pretty and had serious consequences.

Of course the matter is not just of concern to the amenity sector but to homes and gardens and agriculture.

John continued, " We are of course pleased that the approval has been extended and that the decision has been based, as it should be, on the science and evidence. As a Forum we promote best practice in all aspects of weed, pest and disease control. We promote an integrated approach making appropriate use of all methods for control. Glyphosate remains a key ingredient in maintaining safe and sustainable amenity areas.

We will continue to monitor matters as the voluntary initiative for the amenity sector in the UK on all aspects of weed, pest and disease control"

On October 13th, the Forum is holding a national conference where the focus will be upon the important and essential nature of the amenity sector. Further information on the programme can be

found at <http://www.amenityforum.co.uk/conference.html> . Bookings before September 1st attract a £15 discount on the standard delegate price of £65. You can book your place now at conference@amenityforum.net

For further information on the Forum and its activities, please contact Alan.Spedding@amenityforum.net or visit our website at www.amenityforum.net

Notes to Editors

The Amenity Forum is non-profit making and the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a very diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.

The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:

- *To promote and encourage proper and responsible use of pesticides and integrated methods for the control of weeds, pests and disease*
- *To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of "Best Practice" objectives in amenity pesticide use*
- *To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the amenity sector*
- *To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way*

For further information on this press release or the work of the Forum, please contact the Secretary, Alan Spedding, or the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.

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