



Amenity Forum Guidance Document

Best Practice Note for Integrated Vegetative Management

Integrated Vegetative Management

The Sustainable Use Directive has been implemented in the UK. Its overall objective is to establish "... a framework to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use both on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management and of alternative approaches or techniques such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides". This guidance note focuses upon vegetation management of hard surfaces, streets and other roads. All our guidance notes are available on the Forum website www.amenityforum.co.uk

Introduction

Vegetative management on hard surfaces such as city streets and roadways is necessary to prevent damage to the roads and pavements, prevent weeds becoming trip hazards, obscuring road signs or visibility at junctions, blocking drains, etc. Weed growth can also become a litter trap, making paved areas look unsightly. Noxious or invasive weeds must be controlled (these are dealt with in other guidance notes, under Golden rule 2)

Cultural Control

Many methods can be employed to reduce the potential for vegetation growth such as:-

- When installing new roads and paving, consideration should be given to building surfaces less susceptible to weed ingress or ensuring all joints are filled and sealed to prevent weed seeds and detritus settling in cracks, allowing germination and colonisation.
- If weed growth is an issue, can the road or pavement be resurfaced or fixed to prevent weed colonisation?
- Sweeping the area using stiff bristles to remove detritus on a regular basis will prevent build up ensuring 'seed beds' are not presented for weeds seeds to collect and establish in.
- Where sweeping is employed, ensure it is co-ordinated with any herbicide application activities, to prevent sweeping immediately prior to or after herbicide control.
- Use of hot water or foam or other non-herbicidal methods

Herbicide Control

- Develop a threshold for each area to determine at what level of weed contamination, herbicide control should be employed
- Spot control on pavements, either through knapsack application or using machinery to only spray 'green' material on pavements. Sensors may be used to determine green plant material and turn on the nozzles to spray herbicide only onto the weed and not blanket spray the whole pavement.
- Ensuring accurate application of herbicides and using optimal herbicide products for hard surface weed control (See Golden rule 6).