



Amenity Forum Guidance Document

Best Practice Note for Public Areas

Spraying of pesticides in public areas is clearly an important and emotive issue, especially adjacent to schools, hospitals, parks, shopping precincts and other well used areas.

With the updated UK laws coming into effect after new EU legislation – it is now a legal requirement to minimise pesticide use in the areas mentioned above.

The following “Best Practice” guidelines should be followed at all times:

- When spraying in any public areas, ALWAYS work with due regard for bystander safety. Wherever possible, use air induction (low drift) nozzle technology in spraying equipment – particularly for hard surface areas - *where you should not be using any other type of nozzle in hydraulic sprayers*. Additionally, use boom shrouds wherever possible and make use of controlled droplet application equipment. It is very important to reduce spray drift to the absolute minimum.
- Always risk assess every situation – use the safest technique that will achieve the desired result. Consider biological and integrated approaches first.
- Minimise herbicide treatments in public areas by integrating with manual/cultural techniques – for example: increased sweeping of hard surfaces. Monitor weediness – do you really need to spray?
- When spraying in or around schools, keep use to an absolute minimum and do so ONLY during school holidays or weekends.
- Sports facilities – bowling greens, golf courses, pitches, etc - should be sprayed during periods of non-use. Again, use air induction nozzles whenever possible. It is also good practice to erect warning signs whilst spraying such facilities. Again, monitor weediness – do you really need to spray?
- Always use the safest product available. Your COSHH assessments should be pointing you in this direction, but MAKE SURE that you are.