



PRESS RELEASE

Forum calls for the Amenity Standard to become a requirement

Since its formal launch at the start of this year, the Amenity Standard has been very much welcomed by all sides of both the amenity sector and policy makers. The Forum is now calling on the UK and national governments to introduce this as a requirement for all operating in the management of weeds, pests and diseases in amenity areas. This would provide the public and all users with the reassurance that the work was being undertaken by trained professionals operating at required standards, committed to continuous professional development, and adopting an integrated approach to address individual situations.

To hold the Amenity Standard, organisations involved in amenity management must be a member of an approved and recognised assurance scheme. Currently there are three such schemes related to different sub sector activities, and two further schemes related to golf and sports surfaces are under development. There is no direct cost to an organisation to hold the Standard other than the cost of being a member of an approved assurance scheme.

Far too often, the high standards of work in amenity are put into question by a few not operating at required levels. This is why the Amenity Standard has been introduced. It demonstrates that the organisation uses the right approach in management of areas and, where plant protection products are used, they are authorised and approved, and applied to ensure safety to the public, the environment and wildlife seeking to create healthy, sustainable amenity spaces fit for purpose. Introducing the Standard as a requirement would allow proper enforcement and provide all involved with confidence in works undertaken.

Professor John Moverley, Independent Chairman of the Amenity Forum said " The establishment of the Standard is seen very much as a game changing moment for the sector, seeking to provide the public and all involved with the assurance that amenity management operations, wherever undertaken, follow required guidelines for safe use and are appropriate and at the highest standards. Integrated approaches are core to this, making use of all methods available to achieve optimum results.

The Standard has received the backing of all national governments in the UK and is very much aligned to thinking, as the UK and national government are currently reviewing the National Action Plan relating to weed, pest and disease management"

With the introduction of the Standard as a requirement would come the ability for stricter enforcement. The Forum has now over 100 organisations supporting its work and committed to best practice and continuing to drive up standards at all levels. Everyone operating in the sector should have the same commitment and introducing the Amenity Standard as a requirement is a way to achieve this.

For further information about the Standard, visit the website, www.theamenitystandard.co.uk . Public facing information on what happens in amenity management and how it is achieved can be found at www.getbritainmoving.uk

The Forum is holding its annual conference on October 15th, 2020 where the theme will be "Planning for the Future" The event will be professionally presented online. We are pleased to confirm that an address will be included from a senior government representative. The delegate rate is £50. For further information on how to book or for more detail, contact Admin@amenityforum.net

Notes to Editors

The Amenity Forum is the non-profit making voluntary initiative 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 pests, weeds and diseases

To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of “Best Practice” objectives in weed, pest & disease management

To ensure that all practices are sustainable and protect the environment with minimised risks to public health.

To run a communication programme to support these aims and to promote the image of the sector among stakeholders and the public.

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, Kate Hopkins, 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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