

GLYPHOSATE WEED CONTROL Q&As

1. Why are we spraying glyphosate?

The City removes weeds using a combination of mechanical, physical and chemical tools, including the use of Glyphosate.

Weed control using glyphosate is effective, cost efficient and when adequately following the label instructions it is safe for its intended purpose. Invasive weeds sometimes need to be controlled using chemicals. Generally, the least toxic option is used by the City and only when necessary.

2. What is Glyphosate?

Glyphosate is commonly known as "Roundup" (a trademarked name).

The product is a broad spectrum non-selective post emergent herbicide effective on weeds.

Sometimes, a colour is added to the chemical made of vegetable dye. The colour helps the operator to see where they have sprayed, stopping the operator spraying an area twice and reducing the overall amount of chemical used.

3. How does glyphosate work?

Glyphosate is taken up through the leaves of the weed and stops the synthesis of chlorophyll so that the plant eventually dries out. This process only affects chlorophyll in green plants.

4. Is it safe for humans?

Yes, the product can be safely used when applied in accordance with the product's label instructions. City officers are formally trained in the safe use of herbicides including glyphosate. This training includes the application of the chemical in accordance with its material safety data sheet which advises how to mitigate risks for humans and the environment.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is the Australian Government Authority responsible for the assessment and registration of pesticides and veterinary medicines.

The APVMA research concludes that based on their current risk assessment the label instructions on all glyphosate products, when followed, provide adequate protection for people.

This conclusion was drawn taking into account that an assessment by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate in a group of chemicals that is 'probably carcinogenic to humans.'

The APVMA explains that research done by the IARC only looked at the intrinsic 'hazard' of the chemical glyphosate as a cancer-causing agent and did not look at other components of toxicity of glyphosate. In other words this means that the IARC only looked at whether the chemical has the potential to cause cancer, rather than the probability that it will.

GLYPHOSATE WEED CONTROL Q&As

The research done by IARC also did not take into account how a formulated chemical product is used, or how human exposure can be minimised by following safety directions on a product label. In this regard, the findings of IARC cannot be directly compared to assessments conducted by regulatory authorities for the purposes of approval or registration of a pesticide product, which are included in appropriate risk mitigation measures to allow safe use.

5. Is Glyphosate safe to use around wetlands and drains?

The use of chemicals near sensitive areas such as wetlands and drains needs to be managed carefully to avoid any environmental damage. At the same time the risks associated with chemical use in these areas needs to be balanced against the benefits to the wetland system. For example, erosion of banks overgrown with exotic weeds will continue to destroy in-stream habitat for invertebrates and amphibians such as frogs.

When using Glyphosate near drains or wetlands, the City always uses a wetland friendly version which does not contain a surfactant that may be harmful to the skin of amphibians.

6. Why not stop using glyphosate right now?

Weed control is important to maintain and enhance both our natural and developed areas. Weed control using glyphosate is effective, cost efficient and when used in accordance with the instructions it is safe for its intended purpose.

Nevertheless, the City does aims to minimise herbicide use where possible and as such, officers continually trial and research approaches to reduce and/or replace its chemical use in the management of weeds

A risk assessment is undertaken by trained officers for each works to decide which method of weed control obtains the best outcome.

7. How often does the City need to spray?

How often an area is sprayed depends largely on its need, weather patterns and weed cycles. For roads and footpaths, the City sprays at least once a year (September) and then as and when weeds become visible. In Bushlands, weed control largely happens twice a year in Autumn and Spring.

8. How can I request the City not to spray the front of my property?

You can assist the City in reducing the need to use glyphosate. You are encouraged to register your property as 'No Spraying' and commit to managing your own weed management on and in front of your property. Contact the City in writing (PO Box 467, MORLEY WA 6943) and/or email (mail@bayswater.wa.gov.au).



INFORMATION SHEET

WEED CONTROL IN THE CITY OF BAYSWATER



61 Broun Avenue, Morley WA 6062
PO Box 467, Morley WA 6943

P: (08) 9272 0622

F: (08) 9272 0665

mail@bayswater.wa.gov.au

www.bayswater.wa.gov.au

Weed Control

The City aims to minimise herbicide use where possible whilst continuing to maintain the City's parkland and bushland to community expectations. The City presently uses a range of weed control techniques which include:

- Physical/Mechanical - brush cutting, hand pulling, drowning, smothering etc.
- Chemical - use of appropriate chemicals for particular management requirements.

Glyphosate (Roundup) is currently used by the City for weed management in natural areas, spot spraying in parks and gardens and weed spraying on kerbs, footpaths and medians. The product is used by trained officers in accordance with the requirements of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) applied for its use.

The City maintains a register of properties where owners/residents do not wish to have glyphosate applied on adjacent footpaths or kerb lines outside their properties.

Parks and Sports Grounds

The City has an obligation to provide parks and reserves that are suitable for their intended purpose. Invasive weeds sometimes need to be controlled using herbicide. Generally, the least toxic option is used by the City and only when necessary. Broadleaf weed control is undertaken in turf areas in the City's parks once annually (mid-July to September each year), usually for various nuisance weeds such as bindii, clover, capeweed and calthrop. City officers closely supervise the contractor undertaking the herbicide application and all Council staff and contractors involved with the works are required to comply with all relevant regulations and legislation by the Western Australian Department of Health.

Whilst the works are in progress, the park has signage displayed until the herbicide on the treated surface has dried. The City asks that the public avoid walking across treated turf areas whilst the signage is in place.

Roads, Kerbs and Footpaths

The City uses glyphosate for weed control in road, kerb and footpath areas under strict supervision and guidelines in accordance with health and safety requirements (September each year). The City does not spray when people are in close proximity e.g. Café strips etc.

Whilst the City is careful to spray only areas affected by weeds, and spraying is not carried out on windy days, if you think that spray has drifted onto your lawn or garden, it can be diluted by hosing immediately with water. **Contact the City in writing (PO Box 467, MORLEY WA 6943 and/or email (mail@bayswater.wa.gov.au) should you wish your property to be exempt from weed spraying - 'No Spraying'.**

Bushland

The City undertakes an annual environmental weed control program of priority environmental weeds in bushland reserves as recommended in bushland management plans. Herbicide application is used in bushland areas where manual and biological removal is impractical or will not contribute to effective weed control for the site.