

BCP Council Weed Management

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Context

BCP Council is responsible for:



780 miles of roads,
public footpaths
and cycleways



3000 hectares of
open space across
186 sites

- Statutory responsibility to ensure the Highway is safe to use and its structural integrity is not adversely affected by vegetation.
- Legally obliged to control certain types of invasive species such as on our Countryside Stewardship Sites by DEFRA, eg Gaultheria, Rhododendron, Bracken.
- Required to respond to Schedule 9 weed species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese knotweed.

Standards

There is both a need, and for many within our communities a desire to keep the surfaces of highway land free from weeds:

- to protect hard surfaces, from deterioration which may result from weed growth and reduce the risk of trip hazards
- to ensure sealed surfaces and our parks are clean and tidy, and we recognise the contribution that well-managed public space makes to a sense of pride that the community holds in an area.



Integrated weed management approach



BCP Council uses an integrated weed management approach to its land management working towards aligning itself with the Councils Climate and Ecological declaration in 2019.

- Chemical treatment of the highway across Bournemouth and Poole aligned to Christchurch - reduced from 3 treatments to a maximum of 2 annually
- Mechanical sweeping
- Manual sweeping
- Manual hoeing of weed growth within destination parks and sites with debris build ups
- Using site generated and/or locally chipped compostable material as shrub border mulch to restrict weed growth
- Choosing planting that is less susceptible to pests and diseases.
- Increasing areas of traditional mowed grass to grow and establish as meadows to help to increase biodiversity and remove need for chemical treatment
- Encouraging growth of our active volunteers and friends of groups who manually remove weed growth across our parks & residential roads.
- Encouraging residents to support actions by removing weeds along their boundary walls and the footpaths outside their homes.

Products used

BCP Council uses a variety of chemicals to support management of weed growth & control invasive species as they are effective and currently deemed safe via national approval status (2025) and EU authorities (2033) when used correctly.

Product	Active Ingredient	Quantity of Active Ingredient	Quantities Used in Litres Unless Stated	Quantities of Active Ingredient Used	Department Users	Function
Rosate 360 TF	Glyphosate	360 g per litre	2226	801.36 KG	Highways	Systemic herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Round Up Proactive	Glyphosate	360 g per litre	91.6	32.976 KG	Housing & Parks & Open Spaces	Systemic herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Eco Plugs	Glyphosate	720 g per KG	420 plugs	1.188 KG	Housing & Parks & Open Spaces	Self-contained herbicide to control regrowth from tree stumps and roots
Gallup	Glyphosate	360 g per litre	17.2	6.192 KG	Parks & Countryside	Systemic herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Nomix Dual	Glyphosate	162 g per litre	10	1.62 KG	Housing land	Residual herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Nomix G	Glyphosate	120 g per litre	40	4.8 KG	Parks & Open Spaces	Systemic herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass

Products used continued

Product	Active Ingredient	Quantity of Active Ingredient	Quantities Used in Litres Unless Stated	Quantities of Active Ingredient Used	Department Users	Function
Chikara	Flazasulfuron	25%	50 grams	12.5 g	Housing	Residual herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Dicophar	D-Acid (a) MCPA (b) MCPP-P (c)	a - 6.6%. b - 6.6%. c - 4%	78.5	a - 5.181 litres, b - 5.181 litres, c - 3.14 litres	Parks & Open Spaces	Selective weedkiller for turf surfaces
Fusion	Tebuconazole (a) and Trifloxystrobin (b)	a - 200g per litre, b - 100 g per litre	2.25	a - 450 g, b - 225 g	Commercial Activities	Systemic fungicide to control turf diseases
Garlon	Triclopyr	600 g per litre	3	1.8 KG	Parks and Countryside	Selective herbicide for woody and invasive weeds in grassland
Icade	aminopyralid (a) and triclopyr (b)	a - 12 g per litre, b - 120 g per litre	5.8	a - 69.6 g, b - 696 g	Parks and Countryside	Selective herbicide for woody and invasive weeds in grassland
Katoun Gold	Pelargonic Acid	500 g per litre	52.3	26.15 KG	Housing & Parks & Open Spaces & Countryside	Systemic herbicide for broad leaf weeds and grass
Medallion T	Fludiononil	125 g per litre	8.2	1.025KG	Commercial Activities	Contact fungicide to control turf diseases
MMC Pro	didecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride	89 g per litre	35	3.115 KG	Parks & Open Spaces	Algacide for control of mould and algae on hard surfaces

- Glyphosate based products account for the greatest quantities of chemical product applied.
- We only use authorised and approved glyphosate products.
- General use of Glyphosate is communicated to the public via our website <https://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/environment/landscape-plants-and-trees>
- We do not apply chemicals within children's formal play areas
- On open spaces we seek to minimise the use of pesticides but may still use weedkiller on path edges & tarmac areas to treat weeds to prevent trip hazards
- A selective herbicide is not applied to any grassed area, other than high amenity sports turf.
- Sensitive sites treated max twice per annum if required no blanket spraying. Timings are adjusted to reflect footfall/usage etc
- Whenever possible green waste is either composted or used as mulching material on shrub beds to suppress weeds and conserve moisture
- All staff and contractors involved in weed treatment carry the necessary certification to do so & work in accordance with manufacturer guidance; including applying during dry & calm weather periods & avoiding areas during high footfall.
- Specialist equipment ensures that it is only applied directly to the weeds and not spread unnecessarily across pavements, tree pits or other plants.

What next?



- BCP Council recognises the growing concern of chemical usage methods to control weeds. We are committed to reducing the use to control weeds/undesirable plant species on managed land, whilst balancing the need for affordable, safe spaces fit for purpose and appropriate use by its communities.
- Continue to grow interest & support volunteer action to manually remove weed growth thereby reducing need for chemical treatment.
- Develop further our public communications on weed treatment approaches.
- Glyphosate products currently remain the best available solution in some situations such as on highways & for control of invasive weeds. This is because the results are long-lasting, cost-effective, and often have the lowest environmental impact in terms of carbon emissions. Noting some Councils previously ceasing its use now reinstating its application.
- BCP Council & legacy Councils have trialled alternatives and remain open to emerging solutions that can be used at scale meanwhile continuing to learn and share best practice as Council's adjust their programmes.