FLINTSHIRE WEED CONTROL

CYNGOR Sir y Fflint
Flintshire COUNTY COUNCIL

The largest UK-wide survey on pesticide use in towns and cities identifies Glyphosate as the dominant chemical used in our urban environments. It makes up at least 90% of the pesticides used in public spaces. (Pesticide is the term used for any herbicide, pesticide or fungicide.)



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- Glyphosate will travel through the whole plant and kill any plant it comes into contact with. It's called a systemic, non-selective herbicide.
- In aquatic environments, Glyphosate undergoes chemical changes that allow it to persist longer and remain active.
- Glyphosate can indirectly affect our natural environment by disrupting food chains and reducing sources of food and shelter.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

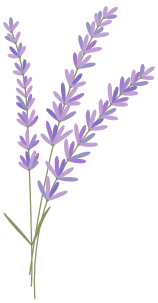
- We have brought our weed control in-house to allow greater flexibility with our approach.
- We are currently using a chemical-free Foamstream system, mechanical devices, Glyphosate-free sprays and heat-based methods to control weeds across the county.
- Flintshire County Council have hosted a 'Demonstration day' where suppliers were invited to showcase a range of chemical-free alternatives for weed control.
- Flintshire's commitment to minimising chemical herbicide use has helped us secure Bee Friendly status.

WHY MOVE AWAY FROM GLYPHOSATE?

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified Glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans."
- We are at risk of exposure anywhere where pesticides are used.
- Children are more at risk of harm.
- The health and wellbeing of our residents is a priority, that's why Flintshire County Council are among the 45% of UK councils taking action to end or reduce pesticide.
- France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and many other countries have varying restrictions on the use of Glyphosate, some prohibiting household use and others having strict controls in public spaces.
- We are minimising our use of Glyphosate to support healthier greenspaces for our communities.



OUR NEXT STEPS

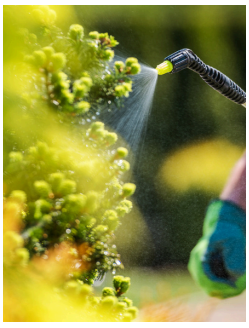


- Monitor effectiveness of our alternative weed control approaches.
- Increase our use of alternative methods across the County.
- Continue to raise awareness about the importance of natural habitat and pollinators.
- Encourage others to support our ongoing and upcoming projects.

ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR GLYPHOSATE-FREE WEED MANAGEMENT:

A COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

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Treatment type	Treatment name	Advanatges	Disadvantages
Heat-based	 FOAMSTREAM	• Herbicide-free & environmentally friendly. • Suitable for many surfaces & environments. • Multi-purpose utility. Used for street and infrastructure cleansing. • Works on a variety of vegetation types.	• Less effective on deep-rooted or perennial weeds. • Requires access to a water supply and a transport vehicle. • Need for frequent or repeated treatments in certain cases.
Heat-based	 RIPAGREEN	• Works in diverse weather conditions. • Suitable for public spaces (schools, parks, urban areas). • Usable on many surfaces and terrain types.	• Need for repeated treatments. • Possibility of fire risk. • Limited effectiveness on established or deep-rooted weeds. • High gas consumption.
Mechanical	 WEEDO II	• Effective on hard surfaces (moss, weeds, block paving, tarmac). • Adjustable brush height/angle and directional sweeping for versatile clearing. • Compact and maneuverable.	• Less effective on deeply rooted or stubborn weeds. • Potential surface damage if not properly set up. • Small coverage area.
Chemical (glyphosate-free)	 GLYPHOSATE FREE SPRAYS	• Generally cost-effective and accessible. • Generally more effective hard surfaces.	• Only kills above ground parts. • Application frequency may be higher compared with synthetic herbicides.