

# Weed and Pest Management Information Sheet

## Why is weed and pest management required?

Weed and pest control is essential to protect the biodiversity of our natural areas and the function, community use and amenity of our public spaces.

## Integrated Pest Management

The City of Belmont is committed to responsible weed and pest management, considering the effectiveness, potential impacts and financial costs of available options.

To help achieve this the City follows the principles of Integrated Pest Management, applying best practice methods as well as clear and accountable management systems for weed control and pesticide application to avoid and minimise environmental and human health impacts.

## Where and how are weeds and pests controlled?

Weed and pest control is undertaken in City managed parks, streetscapes and natural areas.

The City implements a combination of weed control methods considering the pest type, location, cost efficiency and effectiveness.

Only pesticides approved for use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) are considered, where use is justified, minimised in volumes required and is at the lowest toxicity rating necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

Methods in use for weed control include:

- Hand weeding
- Mulching alone, or with planting/ revegetation
- Brushcutting
- Chemical herbicide application
- Steam weeding

The City aims to reduce the use of chemical-based pesticides to control weeds and pests and replace with alternatives, where practicable and within financial resources.

This includes investigating and trialling new and emerging alternative treatment options for weed and pest control to determine their feasibility and suitability.

Options for weed management (natural herbicides, thermal and physical methods) are regularly reviewed with consideration of:

- Relative Cost
- Relative Effectiveness for weed control
- Advantages and Disadvantages
- Suitability for use in natural areas (wetlands or bushland), Public Open Space (garden beds, mulch beds) and hardscapes;
- Outcomes of trials undertaken by the City.

## Risk based approach

A risk-based approach is applied to weed and pest management, inclusive of documented work procedures, contract management, adherence to regulatory, safety and product label requirements, training, auditing, record keeping and reporting.

All employees and contractors involved in the City's weed and pest management activities are trained and competent in safe and effective control methods.

City officers follow requirements of a Weed and Pest Management Operational Policy, documented work procedures, the Safety Data Sheet, label instructions and *Health (Pesticide) Regulations 2011*, as amended.

Signage is installed on vehicles and at spraying locations and records are kept, as per regulatory requirements.

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## Additional Measures

During school holidays, the application of pesticides is avoided within recreational areas of Tomato Lake, Ascot Waters, Garvey Park, Volcano Playground and Adachi Park and within 10 metres of any playground.

Information and regular updates are provided to the community on weed and pest management, through the City's website and to subscribers to an email distribution list.

## 'No-spray' List – Local Government Road Reserves

Road reserve weed spraying is conducted six times a year during the months of July, September, November, January, March & May (weather permitting) which targets all footpaths, kerb lines and median hardstand areas.

The City also conducts spraying on verges to control African Love Grass twice a year, during the months of March and November

Residents/ratepayers can register for the verge adjacent to their property to be left untreated with pesticides, by contacting the City in writing (by email or mail). The 'No Spray' list only applies to local government road reserves and activities of City of Belmont staff and contractors.

Registration to the 'No Spray' list requires residents/ratepayers to commit to maintaining their verge in a weed-free condition.

On a periodic basis the City will request re-confirmation from those registered to remain on the list.

The City reserves the right to apply pesticides should the above conditions not be met.

## Acronyms/ Definitions

**APVMA** - Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (the Commonwealth Authority responsible for approving pesticides and issuing Minor Use Permits).

**Herbicide** - chemical substances used to control unwanted plants.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** - an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques, such as mechanical control, biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

**Pesticide** - a substance used to destroy unwanted plants, insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, algaecides, nematicides, etc.

## Further Reading – Glyphosate

In May 2020 the City undertook a review of Glyphosate use including evaluation of alternative options for weed control. The advice of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority (regulatory authority) is that Glyphosate can continue to be used safely according to the label directions.

For further information on the safety and use of Glyphosate please read the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) fact sheet available at <https://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>.

To register for the 'No-Spray' List, please email [parks@belmont.wa.gov.au](mailto:parks@belmont.wa.gov.au) or write to:  
Att: Manager Parks, Leisure & Environment  
City of Belmont  
LMB 379  
Cloverdale WA 6985

For queries on the City's weed and pest management please contact the Parks, Leisure and Environment Department on 9477 7257.