



CLIFFE AND CLIFFE WOODS PARISH COUNCIL

PESTICIDES ON ALLOTMENT SITES POLICY

Introduction

Pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers can be helpful when clearing and cultivating an allotment, however they can also be hazardous and have environmental implications.

With the increasing awareness of the environmental impact and undesirable effects of horticultural chemicals on anyone when applying them, the public as well as the environment as a whole, consideration must now be given to the use of alternative methods to reduce our reliance on chemicals to maintain the land in the Council's ownership. The development and research into alternative products in the industry has significantly increased in recent years as more local authorities seek alternative methods to control pests and weeds. Government and other organisations involved in licencing horticultural chemicals are applying increasingly strict controls on products available to both professional and domestic users.

It is the aim of the Council to phase out the use of pesticides and herbicides as quickly as is practical recognising, at present, it may not always be possible to eliminate their use altogether.

Nonchemical methods of vegetation control will be used as a first choice wherever possible.

The number of alternatives is currently limited with varying levels of effectiveness and cost.

Owing to the growing concerns over the use of Glyphosate based herbicides it is likely alternatives will increase significantly. Currently the use of Glyphosate is licenced in the UK until December 2025 after which the Government may review its use in both the commercial and domestic markets increasing the demand for alternative methods of weed control.

Since they were invented in the 1940s, the toxicity of pesticides has increased dramatically. Some argue this is good, because it means that less needs to be used. However, it also means that highly toxic chemicals are being widely applied in the UK and killing insects and other life. It also means that humans and wildlife are not necessarily any

less exposed to toxicity than when a larger amount of weaker pesticides was being applied.

While overall weights of pesticides have gone down, there have been increases in the use of highly hazardous pesticides. HHPs are chemicals that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health or environment, according to internationally accepted classification systems such as the World Health Organization. These include:

Glyphosate

Cyantraniliprole

2,4-D

Imazalil

The Parish Council recommends trying to minimise the use of pesticides, herbicides and inorganic fertilisers, or to reduce the levels of use over time. If you do use them, remember they are not a quick fix and should only be used in specific situations - try to keep use to a minimum and always be mindful of the following important safety advice.

Safety when using commercial products

- Always keep products in their original containers
- Follow the instructions for use carefully
- Do not estimate amounts -measure them carefully
- Use personal protective clothing and gloves
- Wash hands after use and wash off any splashes immediately
- Store out of the reach of children and locked away securely
- Ensure you are not contaminating your neighbours' plots or local watercourses
- Consider the potential harm to wildlife, pets and children before use
- Check old products to ensure they have not been banned
- Contact your local waste management and recycling centre for disposal advice

Banned slug and snail killer products containing Metaldehyde

- From April 2022, it is illegal to sell, supply or use slug pellets containing metaldehyde for outdoor use in the UK, including on allotments
- It is illegal to store and use an unauthorised product containing metaldehyde purchased from outside the UK either via the Internet or in person. It is also illegal for the buyer to sell on such products on in the UK
- Metaldehyde products include Slug and Snail baits, which come in granular, liquid, spray, dust, pellet, meal, gel or paste forms. The product is often dyed, usually found as a blue or green colour.
- Product names for slug pellets for home garden use containing metaldehyde that is affected by this ban include: **Ultimate Slug and Snail Killer, Deadfast Slug Killer, Doff Slug Killer Blue Mini Pellets and Westland Eraza Slug and Snail Killer.**
- Not all slug pellets are banned – only those containing metaldehyde – so organic slug pellets based on ferric phosphate remain a legal alternative for gardeners.
- If you have any banned slug pellets at the back of
- your shed, please refer to the Medway Council's recycling and waste management information to find out how to safely dispose of them.

This policy was adopted by the Parish Council on 8/4/2025