

WEED CONTROL

The City of Stonnington is responsible for the management and maintenance of 150+ parks, sportsgrounds and areas of natural bushland, plus hundreds of kilometres of roads, footpaths and laneways. A major challenge to keep our important community assets maintained to high standard is the control of invasive and destructive weeds - which we achieve through a rigorous weed control program.

Why is it important to control weeds?

Controlling weeds in City of Stonnington assets is needed to:

- » ensure a safe and comfortable environment for people using our parks, sportsgrounds and natural bushland areas
- » ensure road kerbs and footpaths are not obscured by weeds
- » prevent weeds from becoming trip hazards in footpaths
- » prevent damage to infrastructure such (as roads and footpaths) caused by excessive weed growth
- » promote the healthy growth of trees and plants in parks, gardens and road reserves
- » improve biodiversity values in natural bushland areas, and
- » ensure our parks, sportsgrounds and roads are maintained to a high standard.

How do we control weeds?

A variety of weed control measures are used across the city:

- » manually removing weeds (pulling them out by hand)
- » slashing with a whipper snipper
- » mulching
- » planting groundcovers and mass plantings to out-compete weeds,
- » turf management programs (mowing, fertilising, watering)
- » spraying with saturated steam (hot water injected with steam), and
- » spraying with herbicide.

Are there site specific methods used to control weeds?

Yes, different methods of weed control are used across the city.

Playgrounds

- » Hand weeding
- » Steam

Natural bushland areas

- » Hand weeding
- » Slashing
- » Mulching
- » Saturated steam spraying
- » Spot herbicide application

Parks and gardens

- » Hand weeding
- » Slashing
- » Mowing
- » Mulching
- » Groundcover and mass planting
- » Herbicide application

Road kerbs and footpaths

- » Herbicide application

Roundabouts and traffic islands

- » Hand weeding
- » Mulching
- » Steam
- » Herbicide application

What herbicide do we use to control weeds?

The glyphosate-based product Roundup Biactive® is used to weed control across the municipality.

Roundup Biactive® is a non-volatile, water soluble liquid product for non-selective control of many annual and perennial weeds.

The product is absorbed by plant foliage and green stems and moves through the plant from the point of contact to and into the root system.

It is inactivated immediately in the soil and does not provide residual weed control.

Roundup Biactive® is more environmentally sensitive than the original Roundup formulation and is approved for use in areas such as around streets, creeks, channels and drains.

Why do we use herbicide for weed control?

It is currently the most efficient and cost-effective way to control weeds to meet community expectations for a high level of amenity in parks, gardens, footpaths and other public areas.

How is the herbicide applied?

The product is applied by trained staff in strict adherence with the manufacturer's safety guidelines.

In most situations, the herbicide is applied by a hand held wand that sprays directly on the weed.

How are the public advised when we are spraying herbicide?

Advisory signs 'Weed Spraying in Progress' are erected before we start and remain in place until the treated area is dry.

In some instances a blue dye is added as a visual indicator of which weeds have been treated.

Is it safe to use a park after it has been sprayed?

The herbicide we use becomes inactive when it dries, at which time the treated area is ready to be used.

What should you do if you or a pet step on wet grass that has been sprayed?

Although the herbicide is diluted to an approved concentration it is recommended you wash any part of your or your pet's body that has come into contact with the wet grass.

Can you request the kerb or footpath adjacent to your property not be sprayed?

Yes, a 'No Spray' register has been set up for residents who do not want herbicide used to control weeds adjacent to their property.

If a property is listed on the 'No Spray' register we will no longer apply herbicide to control weeds in the kerb or footpath adjacent to the property.

If you would like to register your property on the 'No Spray' register visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/weeds

By signing up to the register you agree to control weeds in the kerb and footpath to the same standard as would be achieved by herbicide spraying.

More information

For more information about Council's weed control program visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/weeds