



Parks Policy For Plant Protection Products

1. Introduction

Plant Protection Products have been developed primarily for their ability to act on living tissue. Through sophisticated development they are able to target their effects on a limited range of plants and animals. Increasing concern about the hazards that plant protection products present to humans and the environment has led to the introduction of legislation designed to control the type of chemical available, the sale and supply, storage, application methods and disposal of pesticides. This is primarily controlled under Plant Protection Products Regulations (Sustainable Use) 2012 as well as The Food and Environmental Protection Act 1985 (FEPA), Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR) and Amended Regulations 1997 and the Health & Safety at Work Act.

2. Definition of Plant Protection Product

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation specifies that a Plant Protection Product are substances of a chemical or biological nature or formulation of microorganisms (fungi, viruses, bacteria, protozoa or other self replicating biotic entities) intended for use in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, gardens and on land not intended for cropping for the purpose of:

- Protecting plants or plant products by destroying repelling or limiting growth of pests.
- Destroying or limiting growth of weeds or undesired plants.
- Controlling or modifying the growth of plants (other than nutrients)

3. Legislation

Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) 2012 stipulates that for professional use :

- Storage – A person who stores plant protection products must ensure that such products are stored in areas that are constructed in such a way as to prevent unwanted release.
- Handling – A person handling packaging and remnants take reasonable precautions not to endanger human health or the environment.
- Usage – no person should use plant protection products unless they hold a certificate of competence or permit a person to use plant protection products for professional use without a certificate.
- Disposal – plant protection packaging and there remnants must be disposed of through a approved disposal methods using approved contractors.

4. Legal Implications

- It is illegal to use a plant protection product unless ministerial consent has been given for the intended activity, and that the relevant conditions of consent are complied with. Consent is only given:
 - If all reasonable precautions are taken to protect human health, creatures, plants, the environment and pollution.
 - That no unapproved mixtures or adjuvant are used
 - That formal training of users is required
- Plant protection products can only be purchased through approved and certificated suppliers
- Plant protection products must be stored in a structure designed for that purpose, and controlled by a certificated store keeper.
- Plant protection products for Agricultural and Amenity Horticulture can only be applied by a person with a certificate of competence (NPTC)
- Plant protection products must be disposed of in a manner that will not damage human health or the environment.

5. How Parks Operations implements this into working practice

- Only Ministerial approved chemicals are used
- All application equipment is regularly tested, maintained and replaced as required
- Personal protective equipment is regularly tested, maintained and replaced as required
- All chemicals are applied in accordance to the label requirements
- All staff involved in chemical application are trained to the required certification i.e. NPTC PA-1, PA-6A, PA-6AW, PA – 2, PA-2R and.
- Areas to be treated are secured from public access, or information notices are posted during application periods.
- Staff undergo regular refresher courses as required
- COSHH assessments are carried out for all chemicals, with only those proving to have the least hazard to the user and environment being used. Regular reviews of COSHH assessments are carried and stock changed as required
- Plant protection products are stored in bunded structures that are secure, fire resistant and designed to stop chemical leakage.
- Main chemical storage facility approved and regularly inspected by BASIS, the Fire Authority and the Environment Agency.
- All smaller chemical storage facilities are checked and monitored by qualified NPTC NSK qualified staff.
- Stock records are kept on site with these stores
- Chemical containers are disposed of through an approved contractor or as designated by legislation.
- Plant protection products applications are recorded and kept at East Cemetery Lodge for reference and public information

6. Parks Operations Plant Protection Products Usage Policy

Whenever practical the use of plant protection products will be minimised and alternative solutions sought. Within Parks, Gardens and Open spaces there is a continual reduction in the use of Plant protection products. This has been achieved by:

- Using the principles of Integrated Pest Management.

Prevention > Cultural > Bio-Control > Chemical Control

- Carrying out environmental risk assessments to determine the best method of pest control, only use chemical applications as a last resort.
- Constantly looking at other methods of control of weeds by heat, foam, hot water, electrical impulses as to whether these have a reduced environmental impact.
- Using site generated and/or locally chipped compostable material as shrub border mulch.
- Using physical means to remove weeds.
- By using livestock to control invasive and dominating species.
- Challenging traditional working practices and introducing new practices which minimise the need to apply plant protection products.
- Replacing plants, shrubs and grass mixes with cultivars that are less susceptible to pests and diseases.
- By minimising the use of residual herbicides.
- Improved staff training, in order to inform and prevent poor practice.
- Linking chemical control to Council Plans and Strategies.