



PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES

Effects on Environment

- Kills non-target plants and animals.
- Toxic to invertebrates.
- Reduces the available prey base to birds and predators.
- Can directly kill birds.
- Can be toxic to beneficial soil organisms and may result in the overgrowth of other harmful bacteria and fungi.
- Can upset ecosystem balance.
- Affects aquatic life; birds, alteration of habitat in which organisms live, feed, and reproduce.

The person who applies a herbicide may be held responsible for any damage that occurs.

Herbicide resistance

The ability of plants (weeds) to survive when treated with a herbicide that would normally kill them. Reduce reliance on herbicides to avoid this.

**Poisons Info centre 24 hr
hotline 131 126**

For More Information

Eastern Hills Catchment
Management Program
Tel: (08) 9424 2222

Shire of Mundaring Bushcare
Co-ordinator
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Using Pesticides and Herbicides Safely and Effectively

Pesticides are chemicals used to kill or control plant or animal pests. If not used correctly, they can be dangerous to health and the environment. Before using a pesticide, ask the question, "Is it really necessary?"

Preventing Infestation

- Eliminate the conditions they prefer
- Create barriers, fly screens, blocking gaps around pipes and screening.

Herbicides are chemical pesticides designed to control/destroy plants, weeds or grasses.

Types

Several basic groups targeting certain plant pests.

Pre-emergent Herbicides

Used to stop the germination of plant seeds.

Post emergent herbicides

Can be selective or non-selective eg Roundup and Fusilade.

Non-selective Herbicide

Kills most plants eg Roundup.

Selective Herbicide

Designed to kill specific types of plants; grasses or broad leaf weeds eg Fusilade.

Total Vegetation Products

Considered soil sterilizers, killing all plant nutrients in the soil and preventing any vegetation from surviving eg Roundup.

Restrictions on Use in Councils

Only Round-up Bioactive is to be

Using Pesticides

Only use when prevention is not fully effective.

1. Always read the label carefully and follow the instructions exactly. It is illegal to apply pesticides in a manner that is not indicated on the label.
2. Identify the pest/s and the range of registered pesticides available for treatment.
3. Select the least hazardous product.

4. Read the material safety data sheet (MSDS)
5. Consider the form in which the pesticide is sold and the method of application
6. Buy only as much as you need for a particular task.
7. Take appropriate precautions when preparing.
8. Transport and store pesticides safely.
9. Dispose of unwanted pesticides safely.

used for spraying. Shire of Mundaring-Fusilade also, but is expensive!

Using an Integrated Approach

Relies on planning to use as many control tools as possible and reduce your reliance on high risk selective herbicides.

Although introduction of chemicals should be minimised, herbicide treatment remains the most successful means of control for some species. Their use is recommended when:

- Weeds are thick and little native vegetation is present;
- Removal of the plants will cause erosion; and
- Weeding is greater than 5 m from watercourse or drain.

Precautions

- Always read the label to ensure the herbicide is registered for the weed and is applicable to the situation. *Herbicides are ineffective unless instructions*

are followed exactly.

- Check personal safety guidelines before considering use.

Herbicide Performance

- A surfactant can be used to increase the efficiency of herbicides, but do not add any other substances unless specified.
- Apply the correct rate of herbicide and use correct method.
- Spray as evenly as possible at all times in light winds conditions.
- Spray weeds when they are actively growing and avoid spraying when it is raining.
- Do not disturb treated weeds.
- Early-germinating weeds subject to long, hot, dry summer are much harder to kill due to a build-up on the leaves and thicker cuticle.

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