



PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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Weed Control Information Sheet

Why control weeds?

Weeds are controlled for the following reasons:

Appearance - weeds detract from the overall appearance of an area and trap litter

Safety - weed growth can interfere with visibility for road users and obscure traffic signs. Weeds in kerbs or around drains can prevent or slow down drainage. Their growth on pavements may damage their surface causing broken and uneven slabs.

Structure - weed growth can destroy paving surfaces, force kerbs apart and crack walls, greatly increasing maintenance costs.

How are they controlled?

A Glyphosate spray ("*Roundup*") is used which is not harmful to people or animals and which is biodegradable in soil and water. It is used in accordance with the manufacturer's safety data sheet and the Parish Council's Weed Spraying Policy (a copy of which is available on request).

Why is Glyphosate used?

This type of weed killer is more environmentally friendly, because Glyphosate is a non-residual herbicide. Some other types of weed killers are residual, which means they are longer lasting, and research has shown that some can leach through the soil contaminating drinking water supplies.

- When Glyphosate lands on the soil it immediately binds itself to the soil particles, which prevents leaching.
- Glyphosate rapidly biodegrades into natural substances.
- Glyphosate acts on the plants' enzyme system, which is unique to plants and not found in humans or pets.
- People, pets and wildlife need not be kept out of treated areas.
- The public are advised not to walk in areas where the spray is still wet, to avoid transferring the chemical to grass or other vegetation where it may cause damage. Once the spray is dry this cannot occur.
- These conclusions have been confirmed by pesticides Regulatory Agencies from over 100 countries worldwide, including the World Health Organization

For further information or to report a weed problem, please contact the Parish Council Office.

Weeds and legislation

Injurious weeds - five weeds are classified as injurious under the Weeds Act 1959: common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and curled dock (*Rumex crispus*). It is not an offence to have these weeds growing on your land and species such as ragwort have significant conservation benefits. However, they must not be allowed to spread to agricultural land, particularly grazing areas or land which is used to produce animal feed. Enforcement notices can be issued in response to complaints, which require landowners to take action to prevent the spread of these weeds.

Invasive plants - Please note that we are not able to follow up complaints about weeds not covered by the Weeds Act, such as: Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). It is an offence under section 14(2) of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 to "plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild" any plant listed in Schedule nine, Part II to the Act (including Japanese knotweed). It is not an offence to simply have these plants growing in your garden or on your land, and there is no specific legal requirement to control them.

For further information, please see: www.naturalengland.org.uk Telephone: 0845 600 3078