



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES 2016

TITLE:	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	SUPERVISOR PARKS AND RESERVES AND BUILDING MANAGER
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1. INTRODUCTION

Generally, Council's pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications vary from site to site but range from 6–8 times per year for sports fields, 2–5 times per year for drains, parks and gardens and twice yearly for public thoroughfares.

Bait insecticides may be used for termite and ant control to protect structures and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides that may be used include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits.

The primary aim of these procedures is to ensure that the control and eradication of weeds is undertaken in an environmentally acceptable manner recognising Council's Occupational, Health and Safety responsibilities to employees, contractors and the public in strict accordance with current legislation and Codes of Practice.

Council recognises that:

- weeds have social, environmental and economic impacts.
- weeds impact agriculture, natural ecosystems, water supplies, human and animal health as well as urban environments.
- there is a need for greater community awareness of the economic, agricultural, social and ecological impacts of weeds.

- education and training in weed identification and control must provide a balance between economic restraints, legal responsibilities and community and social concerns.
- weeds impose an increasing economic cost and productivity burden across the Sorell Council.
- sound land management and sustainable land use practices are integral to long term weed management.
- successful implementation of weed control operations will require increased public awareness, education support and community involvement to ensure that the economic, social and ecological impacts of weeds are recognised.
- it is essential that weed management be promoted as an integral part of economically sustainability development.

2. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITY

Council acknowledges its responsibility to control or enforce control of noxious weeds in the following areas:

- council owned and managed land including roads
- privately owned land

Council recognises its responsibility and legal obligation under the following acts:

- Weed Management Act, 1999
- Pesticides Act, 1968
- Dangerous Goods Act, 1998
- Poisons Act 1971
- Public Health Act, 1997
- Work Health and Safety Act 2012

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of these guidelines are to:

- protect the municipalities agricultural productivity and the ecological sustainability of its natural eco systems and human welfare from the detrimental impacts of weeds.
- obtain maximum co-operation and participation from landholders in effective and efficient implementation of weed control programs.
- ensure that staff/contractors involved in weed control work are trained in the correct procedures for the safe application and handling of herbicides, are suitably accredited and well informed on current control technology and safety.

4. METHODS OF CONTROL

The following control methods are to be considered when assessing proposed weed control works:

Mechanical Control

- mechanical control methods will be used where it is practical and economical to do so.

Exclusion

- physical exclusion control methods will be used where it is practical and economical to do so.

Biological Control

- council supports the use of biological controls in conjunction with other control measures.

Chemical Control

When chemical control measures are used Council will:

- use only registered herbicides in strict accordance with the label instructions.
- apply herbicides only when weather and plant conditions are satisfactory (to be determined by relevant Council representative).
- complete a spray operation report for every spray job.
- ensure all personnel involved in the use and application of herbicides are correctly trained and possess the necessary knowledge and skills.
- ensure all personnel involved in the use and application of herbicides are wearing the appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) when working.
- Council will continue to investigate current levels of chemical usage as well as alternative methods of weed eradication control.

5. EXISTING COMMUNITY USE

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of its public place categories is summarised in the table below. This assessment of use was done to establish the type of notification that may be required in each area.

The table includes a summary of the type of pesticides that may possibly be used in each category of public place.

PUBLIC PLACES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY COUNCIL	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS THAT MAY POSSIBLY BE MADE
Public parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young families • mature people • local residents • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers) 	very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicides • spray ant control • bait ant control
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children • young families • local residents 	high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • spray ant control • bait ant control
Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families • local residents • other social groups 	High (particularly on weekends, public and school holidays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • fungicides • spray termiticides, ant control • bait termiticides, ant control
Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers) 	high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spot insecticides • broad scale herbicides • broad scale insecticides • fungicides • spray ant control • bait ant control • rodenticides near facilities
Council laneways, pathways and bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • people who work in the area • visitors to the area 	medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale herbicides

PUBLIC PLACES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY COUNCIL	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS THAT MAY POSSIBLY BE MADE
Road shoulders, road reserves and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents • visitors walking or driving on the road 	<p>low for rural roads; medium to high for urban roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale herbicides
Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local residents living adjacent to a drain • local residents or visitors who walk or drive past the drain 	<p>low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • broad scale herbicides • spot insecticides • bait insecticides • broad-scale insecticides
Interiors of public buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly) • young children and their carers • childcare facilities • parents groups/playgroups • community associations • church groups • general members of the public • visitors to the area 	<p>high</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot insecticides • bait insecticides • spray ant control • bait ant control • rodenticides
other areas (i.e. bushland areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers, bushwalkers) • local residents • Visitors 	<p>low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spot herbicides • spray herbicides

6. DECLARED WEED CLASSIFICATION

A declared weed is any weed that is declared noxious under the Weed Management Act 1999. Seventy-seven plants have been officially declared as weeds under the Weed Management Act 1999. Property managers are required by law to control declared weeds.

To be declared, a weed must have a detrimental effect or cause serious economic loss to agriculture or to the environment. A weed meeting the above criteria will only be declared noxious if there are reasonable and enforceable means of controlling the weed. Weeds may be declared noxious on a local area basis or on a whole state basis. Weeds may be declared or deleted from declaration and weed categories may change from time to time.

Six of the 20 Weeds of National Significance (WONS) are found in the Southern NRM Region. The six WONS are:

- Blackberry *Rubus laciniatus*
- Gorse *Ulex euopaeus*
- Willow *Salix species*
- Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*
- Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*
- Serrated Tussock *Nessella trichotoma*

Tasmania has 77 weed species declared under the *Weed Management Act 1999*, with 44 known to occur in the Southern NRM Region. Nine of these weeds are found only in the south of the state (Southern Tasmanian Weed Strategy).

7. STEPS TO FOLLOW PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF PESTICIDES

1. Determine the job requirements for which the pesticide is required.
2. Determine which pesticides are registered for this purpose and obtain information on:
 - a) their formulation
 - b) their mode of action
3. Select the pesticide which has:
 - a) the highest LD50 oral figure (oral lethal dose required to kill 50% of the population).
 - b) the shortest half-life, least residual (time it takes for 50% of the pesticide to break down in the environment).
 - c) is a residual required?
 - d) pesticides with an LD50 oral figure lower than 500 or a poison classification greater than Class 6 are not to be purchased for use by Council employees.
 - e) ensure that company backup and material safety data sheets are available for the product.

4. Consult with the company to ensure that:
 - a) pesticide may be purchased in packages which are of suitable size for the required job.
 - b) storage of excess pesticide will not create a problem.
 - c) duplication of ordering or pesticides may be avoided (may be currently in stock or on order).
5. select non-flammable products where possible.
6. purchase, if possible, from companies which accept drumMuster returns.

Price should not be a prime requirement when considering products. It is desirable to purchase only those chemicals which fall into the following categories:

- Products with LD50 > 4,000
- Not volatile
- Not flammable
- Returnable drums

All products which are classified as hazardous pesticides (schedule 32) should be avoided if possible.

8. CONTRACTORS

General

A Council representative will confirm with the contractor details of the chemical products to be applied.

The contractor shall:

- be responsible for the supply of the agreed chemicals.
- be responsible for the supply and calibration of spray equipment to deliver the required spray mix material at the specified application rate.
- be responsible for the provision of all fuel, oil, etc. necessary for the proper operation of the carrier and spray equipment.
- keep the carrier and spray equipment in good order at all times and effect repairs immediately upon breakdown, loss of efficiency or other change that would affect the accuracy of delivery of the spray mix.
- pay the cost of transportation of the carrier and spray equipment to and from the spray area.
- pay the cost of supply and transportation of water of quality suitable for spraying.
- at the contractors expense, respray any areas where the spray mix material is not delivered in accordance with the label requirements.
- be responsible for any damage resulting from spray drift or over spray.

Council representative may suspend operations at any time if in his opinion:

- the contractor has not complied with the above.
- the equipment is not properly operating or is incorrectly calibrated or is not delivering spray mix accurately to the target at the desired height.
- conditions are not conducive to accurate spraying.

9. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

General

Prior to commencing any operation the spraying operator shall consider:

1. whether it is safe to spray.
2. whether spraying can be efficiently undertaken.
3. potential impacts on produce within adjoining properties.

The council representatives may suspend at any time if in his/hers opinion spraying should for some reason be suspended. A final decision to spray shall only be given where the Council representative is satisfied points 1 and 2 above are answered in the affirmative and the operator has adequate knowledge of the third point.

Safety Guidelines

The employee/contractor is responsible for ensuring the following safety, environmental and operational guidelines are observed understood and implemented:

1. employees, any person engaged by the Contractor including the contractor if handling chemicals, must have attended and passed the Farm Chemical User training program.
2. each person must hold a current certificate of accreditation. A copy of such certificate for each person must be provided to the Council prior commencing work on the site.
3. each person shall follow all manufacturer label directions and material safety data sheets (MSDS) including application instructions, safety directions and disposal recommendations. The operator will obtain and read the label direction and safety requirements.
4. Council may have an off label permit for the use of some chemicals on some sites under certain conditions and the employee, contractor and their employees or subcontractors will abide by any conditions of such permitted off label use.
5. the employees/contractor and their employees will at all times while dealing with chemicals wear adequate protective clothing and have sufficient training and knowledge to enable them to do their job safely without risk to themselves and/or others. Each person must know the appropriate emergency and first aid procedures. An up to date and complete first aid kit is to be kept on site including any antidotes listed on the herbicide label, e.g. ipecac syrup.
6. only enough chemical for the work that day is to be opened and/or mixed
7. the contractor shall ensure children; livestock and others not involved in the operations are kept away from site, chemical containers and spraying equipment during spraying operations.
8. each person will work in a way or direction that ensures any drift moves away from them. If wind gusts are greater than 10m/hour work is to cease unless otherwise agreed with the Council supervisor.
9. schools must be notified at least 24 hours prior to spraying being undertaken in their vicinity and ensure all safety precautions are in place so as not to endanger the safety of any school children.

10. each person is to wash their hands and face with soap and water prior eating, drinking or smoking. The contractor shall keep at least 20litres of drinkable water and an eye wash bottle on site.

The proper safety equipment for filling up is given on the MSDS and can include:

1. Face shield, hat or hood and goggles
2. Respirator
3. Long sleeved rubber gloves
4. Protective overalls
5. Rubber boots
6. Plastic or rubber apron

The correct safety equipment for applying the chemicals is given on the MSDS. Generally this will involve covering the skin, including wearing a hat, overalls or long sleeved shirt and long trousers and steel capped boots. The requirements indicated on the MSDS are to be observed.

Fresh clothes should be worn each day. Contaminated clothing is to be laundered separately at the end of the day in household bleach mixture.

Filling up applicators or tanks is to be done on a hard surface where containment is possible, away from people and waterways. Persons undertaking such work are to stand on the upwind side of the mixing equipment and where possible load powders in a moisture free environment.

Environmental Guidelines

All containers, bags and liners are to be returned to the chemical supplier for disposal unless otherwise approved by the Council representative. Containers are to be rinsed three times into the spray tank before being returned. Return of containers will be at the contractor's expense. If the container cannot be returned to the manufacturer, then the contractor shall be responsible for the correct disposal of empty containers at a site approved by the local authority for such a purpose at his/her expense.

Chemicals must not be transported in the passenger compartment of any vehicle or mixed with food producer's seed or fertiliser. During transport the load is to be secured and kept dry and in the original containers.

Appropriate clothing is to be worn at all times and in the event of a spill:

- a) the area is to be isolated
- b) the spill contained
- c) the area decontaminated using bleach and hydrated lime.
- d) sufficient quantities for a full tank spill must be kept on site.
- e) any observed adverse impacts resulting from spills are to be reported immediately to the EPA and dealt with quickly to minimise environmental harm.

Spray application is not to be applied when there is a risk of spray drift. Ensure appropriate spray nozzles are used and adjusted to prevent spray drift.

Areas of pooled water are not to be sprayed.

All due care should be taken to avoid or minimise treatment of an area which may create erosion if flood or heavy rainfall were to occur.