



Whangarei District Council Policy

Spray Use

Policy 0067

Date Adopted: 14/12/1993

Ref/Minute No: MB 6177

By:

Audience (Primary)

Internal

Business Owner (Dept)

Parks & Recreation

Policy Author**Review date**

February 2016

Policy

- 1 The use of sprays will be limited to areas where in the opinion of the Roding Manager or Parks Manager, it is not practical or economical to carry out manual, mechanical or other methods of pest and weed control.
- 2 In selecting herbicides and pesticides, Council will endeavour to use only unscheduled or low toxicity chemicals.
- 3 In particular, grass berms in urban built up areas, will not be sprayed, except by a hand operated knapsack sprayer, and then only adjacent to hotmix or chip sealed footpaths, adjacent to kerbs and the edge of the channel where it meets the carriageway.

Council will continue to publicly encourage residents to keep the berms outside their properties weed free and tidy, in order to reduce Council's use of herbicides. General spraying in gully areas, walkways, and open drainage channels will be undertaken where essential.
- 4 Parks and public places where the public congregate in numbers will be sprayed only when essential. In such cases warning signs will be erected notifying the intention to spray and these signs shall remain in place after spraying until all spray is dry on the foliage.
- 5 In respect of schools, kindergartens, day-care centres and other public buildings where children congregate:
 - a. Only chemicals designated as 'low toxicity' by NZ Standard DZ 5854, Appendix 5 may be applied within one hundred metres of any such facility; and application shall be carried out only by hand operated knapsack sprayers and only when these facilities are not in use, e.g. outside school hours.
 - b. Hydraulic spray application subject to the possibility of spray drift shall not be applied within 500 metres of any such facility.
- 6 Public Notification

Public notices of weed control programmes will be publicised in a local community newspaper, generally twice per month and at least one week prior to the commencement of any work. The notices will specify the area or parks where the weed control programme is to be carried out, the types of chemicals to be applied, the period of application (subject to weather conditions permitting) and the vegetation to be treated.

Council's Service Centres will hold copies of all advertisements placed in newspapers and be kept advised of areas which are to receive spray application.
- 7 Any contractors employed by Council to apply herbicides will be registered with the Pesticides Board as Chemical Applicators. Contracts of employment for such contractors will specify that the contractors adhere to the safety requirements and correct application procedures as set out by this policy and in the product label provisions and the provisions of the S ANZ Draft Code of Practice for the Use Herbicides in Urban Amenity Areas.

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- 8 Only Council staff that have undergone a suitable training course outlining the correct application procedures and safety requirements will use herbicides and pesticides.
- 9 Spraying will not be carried out in wind velocities exceeding 10 kph, or when weather conditions indicate that rain or drizzle could follow within 4 to 6 hours from the time of application. At no time shall the ground speed during application exceed 10 kph.
- 10 Registers of properties not to be sprayed because of personal preference by the owner or occupier will be generated and will incorporate existing 'no spray' registers. For these properties Council will not use chemical methods of weed control subject to the owners/occupiers maintaining involved to Council's satisfaction and, upon request, marking the areas with approved marker ribbon or sign at appropriate times.
- 11 Daily records of all sprays used by Council and/or its contractors will be kept and will include details of time, date, location, products, applicators, and wind speeds, updated every 3 hours during the day.
- 12 Council shall appoint a suitable staff member as the 'Spray Co-ordinator' to administer this Policy. The Co-ordinator also shall be responsible for liaison between Council and the public in respect of sprays and for investigating any complaints arising from spray use by Council.

That the policy be progressively introduced with total compliance by 1 January 1995.