

55947

Specifics on where Glyphosate continues to be used 2025 in Edinburgh

Please confirm that Balerno will have the recently purchased electrical trimmers used as part of the integrated safe alternative weed removal approach for 2025 ?

Yes

What was the cost of the trimmers ?

£84,848 for 20 (citywide)

What viability studies/trials were done, what assessment was done to justify investment in this type of safe alternatives rather than a hot foam or hot water machine?

Machines are used all over

Europe <https://etesiaagreentechnology.co.uk/products/city-cut-brush-cutter/>

What specific reasons were trimmers chosen ? For example, do they reach the hard to reach areas we often hear about being a problem? For example, Council have previously mentioned cobbled sets as difficult to treat using safe alternative methods, do trimmers accommodate?

Yes

In 2020 PFB requested hot foam or hot water machines, replaced glyphosate for weed removal. Additional benefits of the machines were shared at this time-could deal with graffiti, chewing gum, cleaning signs and bus shelters. In recent years CEC went on to invest in a hot water machine but it has been stated it will be used for graffiti removal only.

How many days of the year is this hot water machine in use? Could it and/or the second hot water machine which has recently been purchased be shared between departments to help remove the weeds all over the city?

Used every day and is not suitable for weed treatment.

Council have stated if certain streets wish no glyphosate to be applied this can be arranged, on a street by street basis. Could we have the list of specific streets wishing no further applications of glyphosate?

The change from spraying to not spraying was the result of requests from friends' groups or groups of people in a street asking for chemical use to be discontinued.

Meadowfield/Jocks lodge area, Meadowfield Drive

Lismore Crescent, Avenue

Scone gardens

Wilfred terrace

Abercorn road

Portobello/Joppa area

King's Road

Bellfield Lane

Woodside Terrace

Abercrombie Road

Hamilton Drive/Parkside

Eildon Street

Saunders street

Barntongate Street

CEC have been asked clearly for specifics as to where glyphosate, the known harmful to health chemical will or will not continue to be used, but non-specific replies of 'limited use' 'only on hard to reach areas' 'where there is substantial weed growth' 'certain areas' leave residents uncertain. Apart from Balerno, please can we have specific listed streets in Edinburgh that have made agreement or specific streets where it has been decided for no more glyphosate to be applied?

As above

Can we have listed 2024 streets that did not have glyphosate applied and proposed 2025 streets not to have glyphosate or any other harmful chemical applied?

As above. 2025 spraying is not completed yet.

Responses that 'part of' area will have glyphosate applied and 'part of an area will not have glyphosate applications, without any specifics, is extremely disconcerting and unhelpful for people who need and want to avoid a chemical which could cause them or a family member further harm. How does a mum warn her youngster not to

play in a certain area of the street if she doesn't know where that certain area is? How does a pet owner avoid walking down a recently applied street and choose an alternate route if they don't know which street has had applications and which hasn't? How can volunteers help the initiative by weeding their street/area manually without first guarantees from CEC that no harmful chemicals have been applied? Why if CEC know and are aware of when and where they apply glyphosate, are they withholding this crucial information from those who may be vulnerable to exposures from it?

No

CEC states only limited amounts of glyphosate for 'certain areas' of streets will have glyphosate applied and glyphosate will continue to be used citywide on areas when weeds are 'substantial'.

A range of methods will be used including the application of glyphosate until 2025/26

Could we have more specific detail please? 'Limited' or 'substantial' could mean a variety of things, to a variety of people, leaving residents questions unanswered. We cannot expect residents to go ahead and manually weed their street to support pesticide free and the Council, if they do not have the assurance that it is safe for them or their children to do so and that no glyphosate has or will be applied.

Information is not held.

Specifically, what height, width, length of weeds would mean resorting to glyphosate? What measurements are considered 'substantial'?

Anything that presents a trip hazard or is damaging the pavement/road

Please may we have receipted details of the most recent order of glyphosate by CEC?

Purchased in 2024

We have been told approximately just over 1000 litres was purchased for 2024. What order was placed for 2025?

Zero order for 2025

We wonder is there some sort of 10 year tie-in clause with the company that CEC uses that we cannot withdraw from?

No

Now that CEC have admitted there are health implications with using glyphosate, have they taken note of operatives who have worked or are working with glyphosate and have experienced ill health, especially Non-Hodgkin lymphoma?

Unaware of this statement

If a complaint is made about the weeds via the CEC website or communicated otherwise, does CEC offer to remove the highlighted weeds safely in line with Edinburgh's request for safe weed removal or does CEC choose whether to use safe alternative or the known harmful chemical glyphosate?

Information is not held

Q13. Over the last 10 years, how much money has been spent on weed removal of glyphosate or other weed control?

Chemical only as weed removal is part of the wider street cleaning budget information on chemical spend goes back to 2017

2017 – Glyphosate - £25,280

2018 – Glyphosate - £6544

2019 – Glyphosate - £20,747

2020 – Glyphosate - £5234

2021 – Glyphosate - £21,711

2022 – Glyphosate - £36,973

2023 – Glyphosate - £3424

2024 – Glyphosate - £19,247