



# **Straight A's for AMENITY**

**10 easy steps  
towards responsible pesticide use in public and  
amenity and garden areas**

- 1. Assess the need.**
- 2. Appraise the tools available and agree most suitable solution.**
- 3. Alleviate risks where possible.**
- 4. Await suitable conditions.**
- 5. Apply using trained staff.**
- 6. Apply using appropriate equipment.**
- 7. Avoid public, pets and water.**
- 8. Always store PPPs safely.**
- 9. Always dispose of PPPs and packaging safely.**
- 10. Audit results and maintain records.**

# 1. Assess the need

## 1.1 Are there pests (weeds, diseases, insects) to control?

- (i) Are there any pests present?
- (ii) Are the pests a hazard to the public?  
Will weeds cause people to trip?  
Will weeds scrape or sting, (nettles, thistles)? Will tall weeds impair visibility of road signage?
- (iii) Can the pests cause structural issues?  
(Cracked paving?)
- (iv) Do the pests present make the surrounds less enjoyable to the public?
- (v) Do the pests present impede water flow or surface drainage?
- (vi) Are there noxious weeds or invasive species present?



## 1.2 Are pests present in sufficient numbers to warrant control?

- (i) Are pests present at significant levels?
- (ii) Are pest levels likely to increase or decrease in short term?
- (iii) Are pests present likely to result in destruction of ornamental plant?
- (iv) Is pest difficult to control once present?
- (v) Will damage caused by pest get any worse?
- (vi) Will pest spread to other surrounding areas?



## 2. Appraise the tools available & agree most suitable solution

### 2.1 Tools for weed control

- (i) Hand weeding.
- (ii) Hoeing.
- (iii) Brush weeder.
- (iv) Plastic weed barriers.
- (v) Mulches.
- (vi) Decorative stone.
- (vii) Propane burners.
- (viii) Use of shading/ground cover plants.
- (ix) Plant Protection Product (PPP).



### 2.2 Tools for insect control

- (i) Plant species less attractive to insects adjacent to more attractive species or plant really attractive species away from main area.
- (ii) Beneficial insects and predators.
- (iii) Physical barriers e.g., copper strip, diatomaceous earth.
- (iv) Repellents.
- (v) Traps, E.g., sticky traps, traps with attractants.
- (vi) Plant Protection Product (PPP).



### 2.3 Tools for plant disease control

- (i) Resistant cultivars.
- (ii) Mixed plantings.
- (iii) Plant Protection Product (PPP).

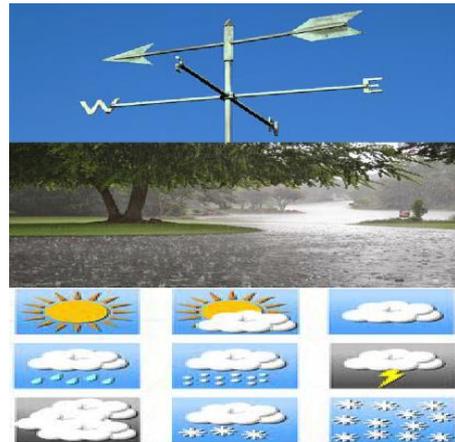




## 4. Await suitable conditions

### 4.1 Considerations regarding conditions?

- (i) Wind speed and direction (preference is to spray if wind does not exceed Force 3).
- (ii) Rain, heavy dew, damp conditions, not suitable for spraying.
- (iii) Volatility of the local weather conditions, heavy rain forecast within 24 hours? While conditions are suitable now, they may not be in 1 hour or 3 hours' time.



### 4.2 Technical considerations

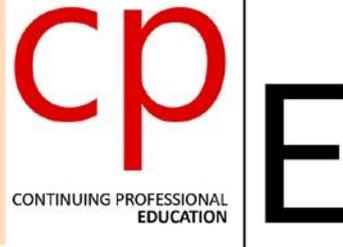
- (i) Sprayer ground speed (tractor, quad, walking).
- (ii) Nozzle type.
- (iii) Application pressure.
- (iv) Boom height.
- (v) Level of equipment maintenance, does sprayer require testing?
- (vi) Equipment setting.



## 5. Apply using trained staff

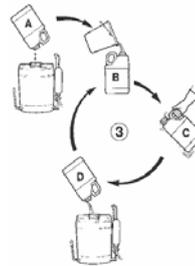
### 5.1 Requirements (professional user in all contexts, e.g., where application relates to a PPP authorised for professional use).

- (i) Professional user must be on the official register.
- (ii) Professional user must be trained to required standard.
- (iii) (QQI Level 5 or equivalent).
- (iv) Professional user must participate in continuous professional education (as provided).
- (v) Professional users may use PPPs authorised for professional use or amateur use.
- (vi) Always rinse PPP containers 3 times, using about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the water volume of the container and place rinsate in sprayer, allow to dry and dispose of safely as non-hazardous waste.



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland  
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann



### 5.2 Requirements (amateur user in home/garden context)

- (i) Amateur user can only purchase and use products authorised for amateur use. It is illegal for an amateur user to use a product authorised for professional use only.
- (ii) Amateur user should carefully read the product label.
- (iii) If in any doubt as to how to use the product, amateur users should consult the PPP label and also the trained personnel who sold them the product before using the PPP.



# 6. Apply using appropriate equipment

## 6.1 PPP application equipment

- (i) Certain PPP application equipment should be tested by DAFM registered equipment inspectors at 3-year intervals - (Boom sprayers >3m).
- (ii) While handheld equipment and knapsack sprayers are currently exempt from testing. Equipment should be maintained to a high standard.
- (iii) Professional user must calibrate the sprayer regularly and carry out routine checks.
- (iv) Professional users should be aware of their surroundings and the size of their spraying equipment.
- (v) User should choose most appropriate application equipment.

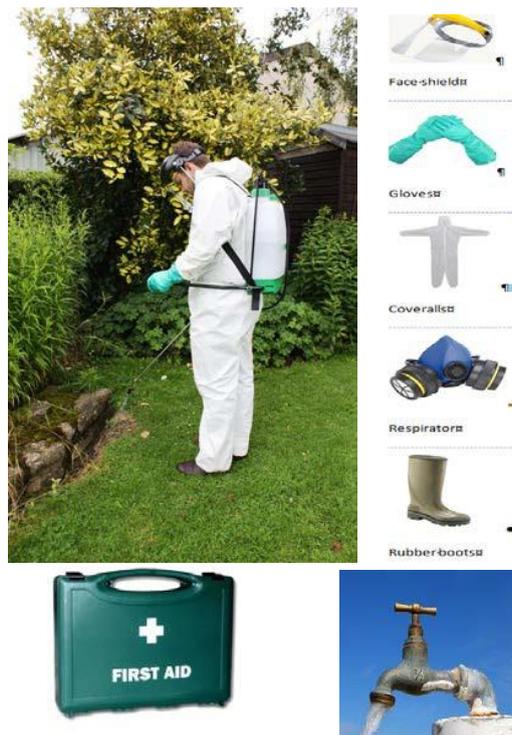


## 6.2 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- (i) Use appropriate personal protective equipment, as recommended on the PPP label:

### Examples

- (a) Face shield
  - (b) Gloves
  - (c) Coveralls
  - (d) Respirator
  - (e) Rubber boots
- (ii) Such PPE must be maintained in good condition.
  - (iii) Clean water and first aid kit should be accessible during spraying operation.



## 7. Avoid public, pets and water

### 7.1 Pertinent to professional and amateur users alike

- (i) If possible, avoid PPP application when people are present.
- (ii) If possible, avoid PPP application when animals or pets are present.
- (iii) Always avoid direct application of PPPs to water (except where specifically treating aquatic area with approved PPP).
- (iv) Always avoid direct application of PPPs to water gulleys/manholes as they are directed to take water to nearest water course.
- (v) If applying PPPs adjacent to water, always comply with the statutory buffer zone stated on the product label.



# 8. Always store PPPs safely

## 8.1 Professional Users

- (i) PPPs must always be stored in a storage area dedicated to PPPs, which is of sound construction.
- (ii) The store should be:
  - (a) Lockable.
  - (b) Sufficiently ventilated.
  - (c) Have adequate lighting
  - (d) The store should be “bunded” (capable of containing a spillage).
  - (e) Shelving should be of non-absorbent material.
  - (f) A warning sign should be displayed on the door.
- (iii) The store should contain the following:
  - (a) Personal protective equipment appropriate to PPPs stored (in clean and good condition).
  - (b) Weighing and measuring devices appropriate to the PPPs stored and for PPP use only.
  - (c) Facilities to soak up small spillages, bucket of sand or peat, or specialist soak mats.
  - (d) A list of emergency services and key contacts with their contact details.
- (iv) The following storage practice should be adhered to:
  - (a) Powders should be stored above liquids.
  - (b) PPPs should be stored in original containers only.
- (v) There should be access to washing facilities.



## 8.2 Amateur Users

- (i) PPPs must always be stored separate to other materials.
- (ii) PPPs must always be kept out of reach of children and pets.
- (iii) Never wash PPPs down a drain or sink.



## 9. Always dispose of PPPs and packaging safely

### 9.1 Obsolete/Old/unusable PPPs?

- (i) When PPPs are no longer registered and their grace periods for sale and use have expired, they are considered “hazardous waste”.
- (ii) This hazardous waste must be safely stored in the PPP store pending disposal via an appropriately licensed hazardous waste disposal contractor.
- (iii) Disposal can be arranged directly with one of the licensed hazardous waste disposal contractors or via a national scheme such as that organised and run by the EPA in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, Local Authorities and WEEE and ERP.
- (iv) It is advisable to keep documentary evidence of safe disposal.



## 9.2 PPP containers and packaging.

- (i) Always rinse PPP containers 3 times, using about  $\frac{1}{4}$  the water volume of the container and place rinsate in sprayer.
- (ii) Ensure containers are fully drained and contain no residual water.
- (iii) Place the triple rinsed dry containers in a large plastic bag and store in a safe dry place for disposal at your local authorised waste disposal company.

**Please refer to “7 STEPS: Good Practice Guide For Empty Pesticide Containers” EPA/DAFM.**

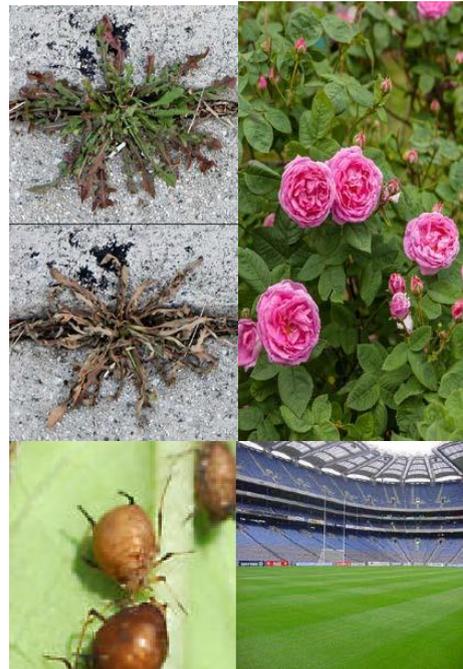
- (vi) Outer packaging such as cardboard or plastic which has not come in direct contact with the PPP active ingredients, may be disposed of by recycling.
- (vii) Amateur PPP containers should be triple rinsed and disposed of in a civic amenity site.



# 10. Audit results & maintain records

## 10.1 Degree of success achieved?

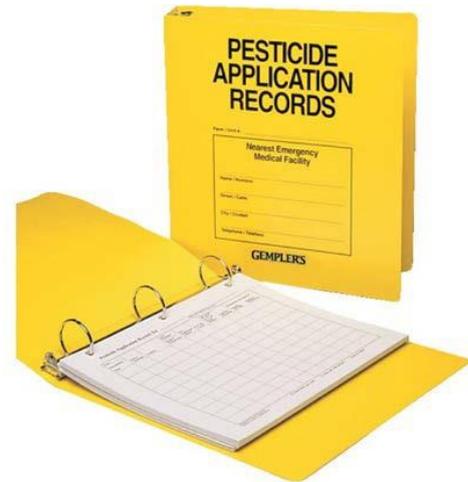
- (i) It is important to assess whether the control measure was successful or not.
- (ii) If the control measure was a failure, is there anything which could have been done differently, which may have led to a different outcome.
- (iii) If the control measure was partially successful, could the control measure work better when used in conjunction with another control measure?
- (iv) Could alternating control measures be an option?
- (v) Was there any untreated area left?



## 10.2 Maintenance of records

### Professional Users

- (i) It is a legal requirement to maintain records of all PPP use by a professional user.
- (ii) It is also a legal requirement to apply the general principles of integrated pest management (IPM) and to maintain records to demonstrate the application of these principles.
- (iii) From an IPM perspective it is as important to record both failures and successes in pest control.



### Amateur Users

- (i) While amateur users are not obliged to maintain records of PPP application or application of the general principles of IPM, it is recommended practice to keep such records.



## Website Links

**STRIPE -**

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/waterprotection/>

**Container Disposal -**

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/waterprotection/>

**Good Plant Protection Practice -**

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/professionaluserssprayeroperators/>

**Guidance Notes on IPM -**

<https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/integratedpestmanagement/>