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 & 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 & maintain records

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

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?
(crack 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

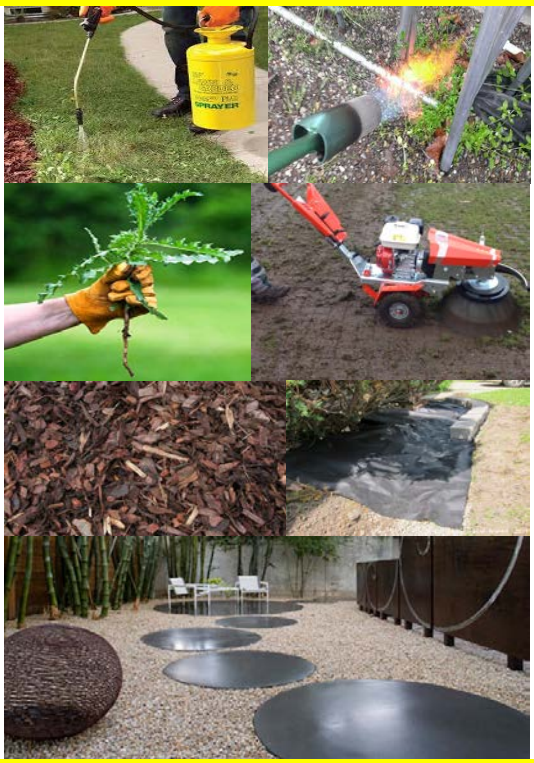
(v) Mulches

(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)

3. Alleviate risks where possible

3.1 Identify the risks with the control measure?

(i) Does the control measure need to take place when people or animals are present?

(ii) Does the control measure have a significant impact on beneficial insects and predators

(iii) Are there immediate hazards associated with the control measure?, trip, heat etc...

(iv) Single or multiple application

(v) Are there sensitive or aquatic areas in the treatment area

(vii) Is the measure pollinator friendly?

(vii) Plant Protection Product (PPP), are there particular risks associated with certain PPPs

3.2 How can risks be reduced?

(i) Only apply control measure when absolutely necessary

(ii) Avoid applying control measures when members of the public are present and exclude them when necessary

(iii) Use anti drift cowels and low drift nozzles on sprayers

(iv) Use PPPs which have more favourable environmental and human health profiles.

(V) Avoid applying chemical PPPs when pollinators are actively foraging

(v) Aim to minimise the total number of control measures

(vi) User needs to be aware of the changing circumstances around them

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**

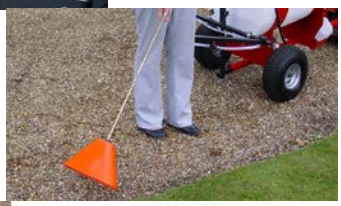
4.2 Technical considerations

(i) **Sprayer ground speed (tractor, quad, walking)**

(ii) **Nozzle type**

(iii) **Application pressure**

(iv) **Boom height**



(iv) **Level of equipment maintenance, does sprayer require testing?**

(v) **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 the official register**

(ii) **Professional user must be trained to required standard (QQI Level 5 or equivalent)**

(iii) **Professional user must participate in continuous professional education (as provided)**

(iv) **Professional users may use PPPs authorised for professional use or amatuer use**

(v) **Always rinse PPP containers 3 times, using about ¼ the water volume of the container and place rinsate in sprayer, allow to dry and dispose of safely as non hazardous waste**

Official Register

Professional Users of plant protection products

CPE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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

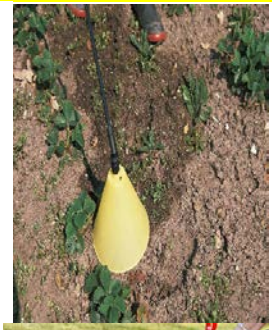
(i) **Certain PPP application equipment should be tested by DAFM registered equipment inspectors at least once before 2020 and at 3 year intervals thereafter. (boom sprayers >3m)**

(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 our 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) Sufficently ventilated
(c) Have adequate lighting
(d) The store should be "bunded" (capable of containing a spillage)
(e) Shelving should be of non absorbant 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 <u>for PPP use only</u>
(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 <u>original containers only</u>

(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

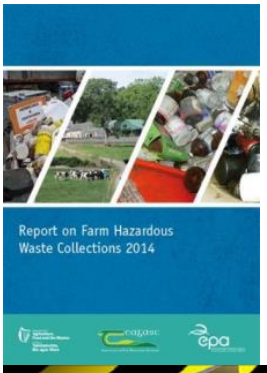
9.1 Obsolete/Old/unusable PPPs?

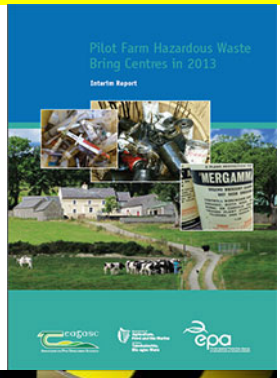
(i) When PPPs are no longer registered and their grace periods for sale and use have expired, they are considered "hazardous waste"

(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 ¼ 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?

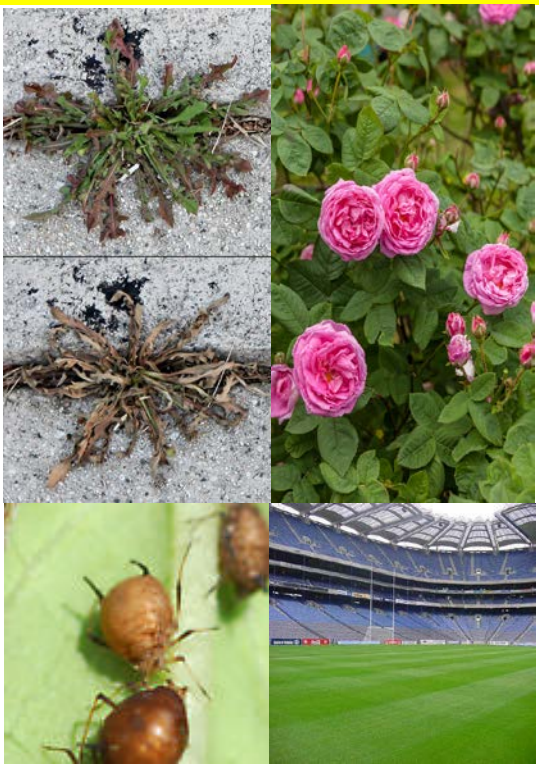
(i) It is important to assess whether the control measure was successful or not

(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?



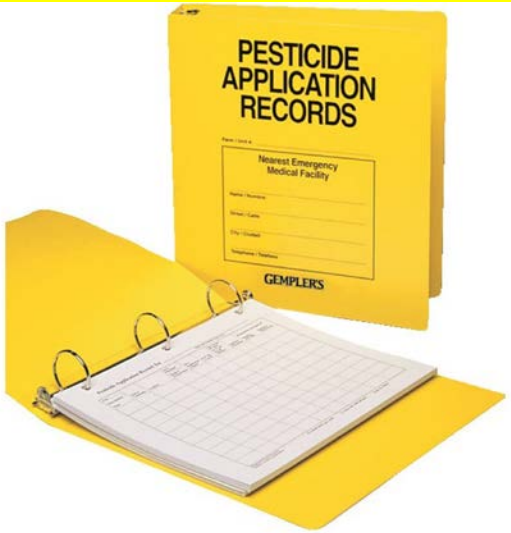
10.2 Maintenance of records

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.



http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/sud/professionalusersprayeroperators/

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

Links

STRIPE (Published by DAFM)
http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/plantprotectionproducts/useofplantprotectionproducts/stripe-surfacewatertoolforreducingtheimpactofpesticidesintheenvironment/

“7 STEPS: Good Practice Guide For Empty Pesticide Containers” (Published by EPA/DAFM)
http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/sud/Good_Practice_Guide_for_empty_pesticide_containers.pdf

Good Plant Protection Practice (Published by DAFM)
http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/sud/professional/Good%20Plant%20Protection%20Practice%20(GPPP).pdf

Guidance Notes on IPM (Published by DAFM)
http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/sud/Guidance%20Notes%20on%20Integrated%20Pest%20Management.pdf