

# PCA Guidance Note

## Herbicide Treatments and Japanese knotweed



*November 2019*



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### Background

Pesticide is a general term for chemical products that contain active ingredients such as herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and aphidicides.

Pesticides are approved (in the UK) by the Chemical Regulation Directorate (CRD), which is part of the Health & Safety Executive.

Advice on pesticide selection and use may only be given by a current member of the BASIS Professional Register (further details ['here<sup>1</sup>'](#)).

Professional pesticides may only be used by competent persons, who hold the relevant qualifications (e.g. PA1 & PA6AW).

There are no 'Grandfather rights' that allow unqualified personnel to use pesticides within the contracting sector (Professional use). Unqualified personnel may only use pesticides, when under the direct supervision of a qualified person (who should not themselves be applying chemicals or doing other works at the same time).

The Environment Agency controls the use of pesticides around all watercourses, canals, lakes, etc. Permission to treat areas within 1m of the bank top is subject to the gaining of a licence (WQM1). An application form (AqHerb01) is available (['here<sup>2</sup>'](#)).

Pesticides are approved for specific uses, previously under The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (amended 1997) but most often now under EU Directives (enacted in England & Wales under the Plant Protection Products Regulations 2011; similar but separate legislation applies in Scotland & Northern Ireland). Each product has a unique MAPP number which can be checked against HSE/CRD's database to ensure it is up-to-date (['here<sup>3</sup>'](#)). The conditions of approval are listed on the product label. Minor uses may also be available through specific off-label approvals – (see [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk)) or ask advice from a member of the BASIS Professional Register.

**Using pesticides beyond the scope of these approvals may result in prosecution and fines of up to £5000.00 for each offence.**

### Herbicides for Japanese knotweed control:

The Environment Agency Code of Practice for Japanese knotweed (published in 2006, updated 2013) lists four active ingredients, which originally could have been used for Japanese knotweed control:

- Glyphosate
- Picloram
- 2-4D
- Triclopyr

**Glyphosate** is available in a number of trade products – such as Roundup Pro Biactive, Stamen, Amenity Glyphosate, etc. It remains suitable for use against Japanese knotweed in most situations including (subject to the gaining of a licence) near water and on hard surfaces.

**Picloram** is now withdrawn from use for treating Japanese knotweed and cannot be used (guidance on disposal

of unused product can be found ([here<sup>4</sup>](#)).

**2-4D** is available as 2-4D amine 500 or formulated with other products. 2-4D is not an effective herbicide for Japanese knotweed and its use is therefore limited.

**Triclopyr** is no longer available as a stand-alone active ingredient but is licensed for use with aminopyralid in several formulations including *Icade* and *Garlon Ultra*. Both these formulations are licenced as Industrial Herbicides for use on Amenity Grasslands such as Motorway embankments, Network Rail land, etc. No specific approval exists for amenity use i.e. residential properties or in gardens. Nor are they approved for use near water or on hard surfaces.

**All pesticides must be used in accordance with their label.**

#### **Herbicide use:**

There are many restrictions on pesticide use (abiding by label conditions is a minimum requirement) but fortunately there is plenty of expert advice available either from suppliers (who should have a BASIS qualified adviser) or manufacturers (whose technical helpline will usually be listed on the pesticide label).

Tank mixing of products or combining with other chemicals may only be done if specifically approved on the label of the product. See the label or the CRD's website for further information.

All pesticides must be used in accordance with their label.

#### **Limits to areas of use**

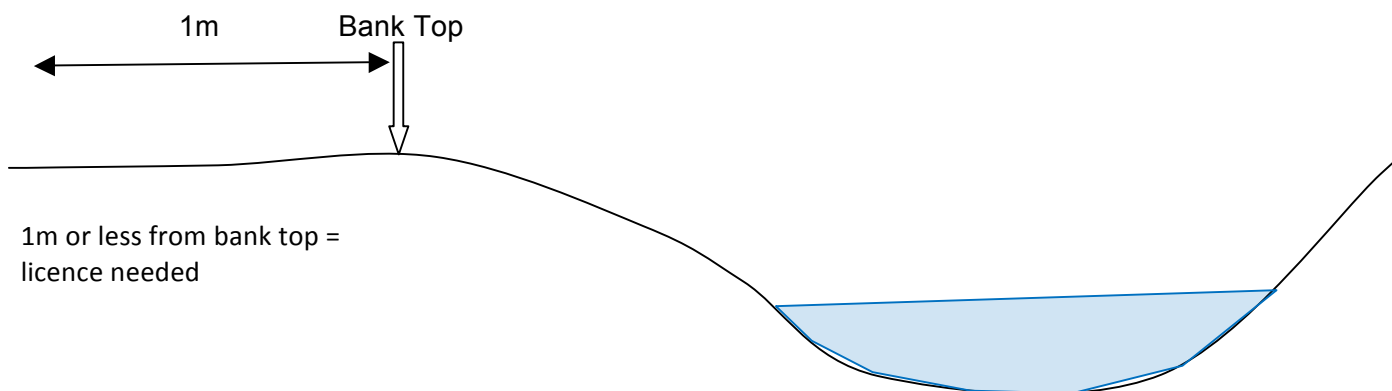
Hard surfaces:

Japanese knotweed often emerges through paths, drives, concrete etc. Products applied to their foliage will inevitably contaminate such hard non-porous surfaces, then wash off and contaminate ground and surface water. This risk restricts the choice of herbicide to be used in such situations to one active ingredient – glyphosate.

**Note:** Hard surfaces include those that are cracked or have porous gaps such as paving slabs. Further advice is available in the Crop Protection Association's leaflet 'Amenity Best Practice' - ([here<sup>5</sup>](#)).

#### **Areas adjacent to water courses or ditches:**

Herbicide use at or within 1m of the top of the bank, must have the consent of the Environment Agency in advance of any application of herbicide. The licence may be applied for with the Aqherb01 form (England, see above), other Environment Agencies (Natural Resource Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, etc.) have their own regulations, which should be followed.



**Storage of Pesticides:**

How pesticides may be stored is dependent on their total volume in that store and the products being stored.

A store must have a named individual responsible for that store.

This individual must be competent and have obtained the BASIS Storekeepers Certificate for stores holding 200L or more of pesticide or a minimum of the PA1 for smaller stores (strongly recommended). The storekeeper in most organisations will have a number of duties including ordering and receiving new supplies of pesticides, monitoring the store, issuing chemicals and disposing of obsolete stock and empty pesticide containers.

Further information is available from the HSE AIS16 (see below).

**Application:**

Herbicides may principally be applied in three distinct ways. These are:

- a) Spraying through a hydraulic nozzle – e.g. boom sprayer or knapsack sprayer
- b) Weed wiping and
- c) Injection

Dose rates, spray solution concentrations, water volumes, equipment type and other information will be on the label for each product

Note: Dose rates and dilution vary with application method.

Examples of herbicide dose rates and application methods used for Japanese knotweed control

Product	Conventional spraying	Weed wiping	Injection
Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup Proactive)	Approved – 5L per hectare, typically applied as a spray at 200L/Ha, but in the range 80-250L/Ha spray solution	Approved – 33.3% solution	Approved – either 10mls of a 20% solution or 2mls of concentrate per stem (where >8mm stem diameter)
Triclopyr (e.g. Icade)	Approved – 4L per hectare applied as a spray. Maximum dose per year 4L of product per hectare per year	Not Approved	Not Approved

Operators need to be adequately trained and competent in the way they will use these products; holding the relevant certificate cannot assume this competence.

**Health and Safety:**

A contractor must be aware of all relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulation that will apply to the use of Plant Protection Products. This will include the Health and Safety at Work Act 1975 and various Regulations which relate to it, especially the COSHH Regulations 2002.

Defra/HSE guidance 'Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products' (applicable in England & Wales) is available ([here](#)<sup>6</sup>).

## Links, Key Guidance and other sources of information:

Web links in the body of the text above are:

1. [www.basis-reg.co.uk/index](http://www.basis-reg.co.uk/index)
2. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/601813/LIT\\_4719.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601813/LIT_4719.pdf)
3. <https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/pestreg/ProdSearch.asp>
4. [http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/resources/C/Code\\_of\\_Practice\\_for\\_using\\_Plant\\_Protection\\_Products\\_-\\_Section\\_5.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/resources/C/Code_of_Practice_for_using_Plant_Protection_Products_-_Section_5.pdf)
5. [https://cropprotection.org.uk/media/1061/cpa\\_leaflet\\_amenity\\_best\\_practice\\_2013.pdf](https://cropprotection.org.uk/media/1061/cpa_leaflet_amenity_best_practice_2013.pdf)
6. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/topics/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products.htm>

Chemical Regulation Directorate – [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk)

Code of Practice for using Plant Protection Products (January 2006):

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/topics/using-pesticides/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products.htm>

PCA Code of Practice 'Management of Japanese knotweed' 2018. Available to download from [www.property-care.org](http://www.property-care.org)

HSE AIS16. Guidance for storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais16.pdf>

TOPPS – Train Operators to Promote Best Practices and Sustainability – [www.topps-life.org](http://www.topps-life.org)



The information contained in this booklet is given in good faith and is believed to be correct. However, it must be stressed that of necessity it is of a general nature. The precise condition may alter in each individual case and the Association is therefore unable to accept responsibility for any loss howsoever arising from the use of the information contained therein.



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