



Weedkillers available for Home Gardeners

RHS Gardening Advice, April 2023

The RHS believes that avoiding pests, diseases and weeds by good practice in cultivation methods, cultivar selection, garden hygiene and encouraging or introducing natural enemies, should be the first line of control.

If chemical controls are used, they should be used only in a minimal and highly targeted manner. For example, where pests, diseases or weeds pose a serious threat to the wider environment, to important heritage specimens, to habitat or to native wildlife.

Introduction



The information provided here lists those weedkillers that are legally available to buy in the UK and are widely sold. This is to help gardeners choose the right product as a last resort. Inclusion of a product does not indicate a recommendation or endorsement by RHS Gardening Advice.

The active ingredients listed here under their manufacturers' names, may also be available as 'own brand' products from larger retailers such as DIY stores. It is not practical to list all of these. The name of the active ingredient must, by law, appear on the label, but it may be in small print. In a number of cases, a product that works by physical action may not indicate its active ingredient on the label.

All garden chemicals on sale in the United Kingdom are safe when used according to the manufacturers' instructions. Most proprietary products have been issued with a MAPP or HSE number that can be found on the pack. Some products on this leaflet (eg. some of the cleaning products) do not require MAPP or HSE numbers.

For the most effective and safe use of weedkillers, rules should be observed:

1. Use weedkillers only as a last resort. Most weeds can be controlled by good cultivation techniques such as hoeing, mulching, mowing and digging.
2. Select a weedkiller that is recommended for the control of the weed. Always read the label before choosing or buying a product.
3. Only buy enough product for a single season. For a small area a ready-to-use (RTU) spray is likely to be best.
4. Read the label and check for specific limitations or precautions. Wear rubber gloves, particularly when handling concentrates and spraying.
5. Follow the instructions on the product label and apply the weedkiller at the stated rate and in the manner described. It is a legal requirement to comply with the Statutory Conditions indicated on the label.
6. Make sure you are spraying at the correct times and intervals. This is often crucial for the control of a weed.
7. Unless specifically recommended by the manufacturer, do not mix products.
8. Avoid contact with exposed parts of the body, particularly the eyes. Wash off any splashes immediately with clean water.
9. Avoid breathing in sprays. Wash with soap after using sprays.
10. Exclude children and pets during spraying until the product has dried.
11. Do not smoke, eat or drink while spraying.
12. Spray sufficiently to wet the plants without excessive run-off or drift, but thoroughly wet the stems, buds and the underside as well as the upper surface of the leaves.

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13. Do not spray on windy or very sunny days. Avoid spraying open flowers and apply directly to the weed being controlled.
14. Clean all equipment after spraying. DO NOT use apparatus that has contained weedkiller for the application of other substances such as fertilisers or water.
15. Always make up only sufficient solution for the task. Any leftover spray should be sprayed onto plants specified on the label.
16. Store chemicals in a safe place away from children and pets, keeping them tightly closed and in their original containers.

Choosing weedkillers available to home gardeners

The following list comprises weedkillers that are legally and readily available in garden centres, DIY stores, etc. You should be aware that it is ESSENTIAL you check the statutory conditions of use, and directions of use, on the weedkiller label to check the situation in which the individual weedkiller can be used. For more information on approved chemicals and safe pesticide use, visit the website of the Health and Safety Executive: secure.pesticides.gov.uk/garden/prodsearch.asp

Trained staff are present by law in larger retail outlets who can give good advice on what products to buy, how to use them and alternative methods of control.

Key: RTU = Ready to use spray – products applied straight from the pack without further dilution.

1. Hormone-type weedkiller

Chemicals such as 2,4-D, mecoprop-P, MCPA, clopyralid, fluroxypyr and dicamba are described as 'hormone' weedkillers as they mimic plant hormones, causing characteristic twisted or distorted growth when applied to weeds. These weedkillers are selective, targeting broad-leaved weeds and leaving narrow-leaved plants (grasses) unharmed at the normal dilution rate. Because of this, they are used on lawns or rough grassland. Hormone weedkillers are foliar-acting and translocated, moving down into the weeds' roots when applied to the foliage. They also tend to be slightly residual, remaining in the soil for a few weeks after application.

Do not add the first lawn clippings after application to the compost heap. The first clippings from products containing **clopyralid*** (which is especially persistent) should not be composted and the next three mowings should be used as a mulch only after composting for at least 9 months. To avoid possible contamination of compost, do not collect the clippings at all but mow frequently and allow the short clippings to remain on the surface of the lawn. These will quickly disperse to leave an acceptable finish. Very often lawn weedkillers are combined with fertilisers and/or mosskillers.



New lawns can be easily damaged by lawn weedkillers so avoid using them within six months of seeding or turfing. However, products containing fluroxypyr (eg. Weedol Lawn Weedkiller) are claimed to be safe if applied two months after sowing or laying turf. The new lawn must be growing well.

a) Weedkiller for use in rough grassland

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
triclopyr	SBK Brushwood Killer	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate

b) Lawn weedkillers (clopyralid* – see introduction to this section)

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
clopyralid*/2,4-D/MCPA	LawnClear 2	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate
dicamba/mecoprop-P	Doff Lawn Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use spray
dicamba/mecoprop-P	Resolva Lawn Weedkiller Extra	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate
fluroxypyr/MCPA/clopyralid*	Weedol Lawn Weedkiller	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate

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c) Lawn weedkillers with fertiliser (N = nitrogen, P = phosphorus, K = potassium)

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
2,4-D/MCPA/ clopyralid* plus NPK	LawnClear 2 Feed & Weed	Vitax Ltd	concentrate

d) Lawn weedkillers with fertiliser and mosskiller

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/ mecoprop-P plus NPK	Complete Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Doff Portland Ltd	granules
MCPA/mecoprop-P/ ferrous sulphate, NPK	Miracle-Gro EverGreen Complete 4 in 1	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/ mecoprop-P/dicamba plus NPK	All in One Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Vitax Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/ mecoprop-P/ dicamba plus NPK	Aftercut All-in-One Lawn Feed, Weed and Moss killer	Westland Horticulture Ltd	granules

e) Non-chemical bacteria-based moss suppressants for lawns

A number of products such as Viano MO Bacter Organic Lawn Fertiliser, Neudorff Organic CleanLawn, Vitax Moss Remover No Rake and Miracle-Gro Evergreen No Rake claim good control of moss, as well as feeding the lawn.

2. Moss and Algae Killers, Garden Cleaners and Water Butt Purification



Mosskillers have been formulated to control moss on lawns, borders and/or hard surfaces (check manufacturers' statutory conditions). Mosskillers work by contact action, only some being selective when used at the correct concentration. Never use ferrous sulphate on hard surfaces as it will stain.

Algae killers also work on contact and are mainly approved for use on hard surfaces, although the products based on pelargonic acid and other fatty acids have approval for use around trees and ornamental plants. Most are water-soluble and so have poor residual properties, providing little long-term control.

Please note that a number of the products in sections c) and d) are non-chemical and work through mechanical, enzymatic or microbial action. Other garden cleaning products are also available.

a) Lawn mosskillers

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
ferrous sulphate plus N	Green Up Lawn Sand	Vitax Ltd	sand
ferrous sulphate plus N	Westland Lawn Sand 2	Westland Horticulture Ltd	sand
ferrous sulphate plus N	Miracle-Gro Evergreen Mosskill Liquid	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
iron sulphate plus seaweed extract	Maxicrop Moss killer and Lawn Tonic	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
ferrous sulphate plus NK	Miracle-Gro Evergreen Mosskill	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	granules
Ferrous sulphate plus NPK	Aftercut All in One Autumn	Westland Horticulture Ltd	granules
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Job Done Moss Killer	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	CleanLawn Moss Control for Lawns	Neudorff UK Ltd	concentrate

b) Moss and algae killers (not for lawns)

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Spot On Fast Acting Moss Killer	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	ready-to-use
fatty acid	Job Done Moss Killer	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Fast Acting Moss & Algae Killer	Neudorff UK Ltd	concentrate
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Resolva Moss Killer	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Spot On Total Weed and Moss Killer	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	ready-to-use

c) Garden cleaners

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Algon Organic Path, Patio & Deck Cleaner	Algon Ltd	concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Doff Super Path, Patio & Decking Cleaner	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Patio Magic	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Spot On Long Lasting Path & Patio Cleaner	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd	concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Resolva Xtra Clean	Westland Horticulture Ltd	concentrate
garden cleaner/ disinfectant based on para-chloro-meta-cresol	Jeyes Fluid Outdoor Cleaner	Jeyes UK	concentrate
nitrilo triacetic acid/trisodium salt	Job Done Garden Path & Patio Cleaner	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
non-acid surface cleaner	Jeyes Outdoor Cleaner Patio & Decking Power	Jeyes UK	concentrate
surfactant	Path & Patio Liquid Cleaner	Vitax Ltd	concentrate
surfactant based on plant extracts	Just Glasshouse Cleaner	Just Green Ltd	concentrate

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d) Water butt purification

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
naturally-occurring plant extract	Just Green Water Butt cleaner	Just Green	concentrate
naturally-occurring micro-organisms	Water Butt Fresh	Eco Pond Ltd	concentrate
naturally-occurring micro-organisms	Envii Water butt Klear	Bio8 Ltd	soluble tablet

3. Contact Weedkillers



Contact weedkillers are non-selective and non-residual and work simply by scorching off weed foliage. This makes the ready-to-use formulations ideal for controlling annual weeds and perennial weed seedlings growing in between garden plants, which can simply be protected using polythene, cardboard or an upturned bucket.

a) Contact weedkillers

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Weedol Gun! Fast Acting	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use
acetic acid	Roundup Speed Ultra	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use
acetic acid	Spot On Fast Acting Weedkiller	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	ready-to-use
acetic acid	Resolva Fast Weedkiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
acetic acid	Resolva Path & Drive	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
fatty acid	Job Done Garden Ultrafast Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	24/7 Fast Acting Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Green Fingers Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Weedol Rapid Weed Control	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Weedol Path and Gravel Weed Control	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Resolva Xpress Weedkiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Resolva Xtra Fast Weedkiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use

b) Contact weedkillers that also contain maleic hydrazide (a plant growth regulator used to inhibit regrowth)

Active ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
pelargonic acid/ maleic hydrazide	Weedfree Plus	Neudorff UK Ltd	ready-to-use and concentrate

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4. Systemic Weedkillers

Systemic weedkillers are non-selective and non-residual. They differ from contact weedkillers in that when applied to the foliage the weedkiller moves down into the root system of the weed. This makes systemic weedkillers ideal for controlling deep-rooted perennial weeds. The most effective time for spraying glyphosate⁺ is mid to late summer when the weed has a large surface area. Some products are marketed as stump killers and are usually applied in the dormant period.

⁺ *The RHS does not promote the use of glyphosate, it is listed here as an active ingredient in legally available products for home gardeners. See the RHS statement on the first page.*

^{**} *These products contain a selective broad-leaved contact weedkiller as well as glyphosate.*

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
glyphosate	Doff Tree Stump & Tough Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	soluble sachet
glyphosate	Doff Advanced Concentrated Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Doff Weedout Extra Tough Concentrate	Doff Portland Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Doff Advanced Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Doff Path & Patio Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Job Done General Purpose Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Job Done General Purpose Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Rootblast Super Strength Total Weedkiller	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Roundup Fast Action	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Roundup Stump Killer	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Roundup Ultra	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Resolva Pro Tree Stump	Westland Horticulture Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Resolva Pro Weedkiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Resolva Pro Weedkiller Super Concentrate	Westland Horticulture Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Resolva Pro Weedkiller liquid sachets	Westland Horticulture Ltd	soluble sachets
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Rootkill Plus	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Ultra Tough	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Gun! Ultra Tough	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use

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5. Residual weedkillers



Residual weedkillers (used in combination with the systemic weedkiller glyphosate) can be soil-acting or foliar-acting, the weedkiller remaining in the soil for weeks or months, depending on the active ingredients' properties. Some can be used around plants, whereas others can only be used in uncultivated areas and/or hard surfaces. Check the label before use.

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
glyphosate/diflufenican	Job Done Tough Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate/diflufenican	Job Done Path Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate/diflufenican	Weedol Pathclear Weedkiller	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate/diflufenican	Weedol PS Pathclear Weedkiller	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL USE WEEDKILLERS SAFELY

Weedkiller Legislation

Some garden weedkillers have been withdrawn from the market recently or have had their label recommendations changed. If you possess any out-of-date chemicals, contact your local authority's waste disposal section for advice on suitable disposal sites.



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Manufacturers/Distributors

*Special phone charges apply; check the manufacture's website for details

Company Name	Address	Telephone	Website
Algon Ltd	Unit 3, Ribble Saw Mill, Paley Rd, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8LT	(01772) 823370	www.algonorganics.co.uk
Bio8 Ltd	McGregors Way, Turnoaks Business Park, Chesterfield S40 2WB	(01246) 240880	www.envii.co.uk/
Doff Portland Ltd	Aerial Way, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire NG15 6DW	(0115) 983 4300	www.doff.co.uk
Eco Pond Ltd	P O Box 5409, Bradford on Avon BA15 5DD	(01225) 867760	www.ecopond.co.uk
Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	1 Archipelago, Lyon Way, Frimley, Surrey GU16 7ER	(01276) 401300	www.lovethegarden.com
Jeyes Fluid	Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4RQ	(08000) 514433	www.jeyesfluid.co.uk
Just Green Ltd	Unit 14 Springfield Ind Est, Springfield Rd, Burnham-on- Crouch, Essex CM0 8UA	(01621) 785088	Available from www.amazon.co.uk
Neudorff UK	DLF Seeds Ltd, Thorn Farm, Evesham Rd., Inkberrow, Worcestershire WR7 4LJ	(01386) 791113	www.neudorff.co.uk
SBM Life Science Ltd	Ground Floor, Hyperion House, Fordham Rd, Newmarket CB8 7XN	(0330) 330 3563	www.seezon.co.uk
Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	4c Archway House, The Lanterns, Melbourn St, Royston SG8 7BX	(01763) 212103	www.sipcamhg.co.uk
Viano	Wijngaardveld 36, B-9300 Aalst, Belgium	(00 32) 53780574	www.viano-organics.com
Vitax Ltd	Owen Street, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3DE	(01530) 510060	www.vitax.co.uk
Westland Horticulture Ltd	Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 4HY	(01480) 443789	www.gardenhealth.com

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