
Weedkillers for Home Gardeners

RHS Gardening Advice
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Inclusion of a product in this leaflet does not indicate a recommendation or endorsement by the RHS Gardening Advice. This is a list of products available to the home gardener.



Introduction

The active ingredients listed here under their manufacturers' names, may be available as 'own brand' from larger retailers such as DIY superstores. 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 which can be found on the pack. Some products on this leaflet, such as the seaweed extract for patio cleaning, do not require MAPP or HSE numbers.

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

1. Use chemicals only when they are really necessary. Many weeds can be kept down by good cultivation techniques such as hoeing, mulching, mowing and digging.
2. Select a chemical which is recommended for the particular purpose you have in mind. 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 the best answer.
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 chemical 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 it is best to avoid mixing pesticides.
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 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.
13. Do not spray on windy or very sunny days.
14. Clean all equipment after spraying. DO NOT use apparatus that have contained herbicides for the application of other substances such as fertilisers or water.
15. Always try to 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.

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Choosing weedkillers available to home gardeners

The following list comprises herbicides that should be 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 herbicide label to check the situation in which the individual herbicide 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.

1. Hormone-type Herbicides

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 herbicides 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 herbicides so avoid using them within six months of seeding or turfing. However, products containing fluroxypyr (Scotts 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) Rough grassland weedkillers

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
triclopyr	SBK Brushwood Killer	Vitax Ltd	liquid concentrate
triclopyr	SBK Brushwood Killer (RTU)	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use spray

b) Lawn weedkillers

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

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
fluroxypyr/MCPA/clopyralid*	Weedol Gun Lawn Weedkiller (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
fluroxypyr/MCPA/clopyralid*	Roundup Lawn Weedkiller (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray

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

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
2,4-D/dicamba plus NPK	Evergreen Premium plus Weed Control Lawn Food	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	granules
2,4-D/MCPA /clopyralid* plus NPK	Green Up Lawn Liquid Feed & Weed	Vitax Ltd	liquid 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	3 in 1 Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Doff Portland Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/mecoprop-P plus NPK	Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Garden Direct	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/mecoprop-P plus NPK	Green Up Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Vitax Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/mecoprop-P plus NPK	Aftercut All-in-One Feed, Weed and Moss killer	Westland Horticulture Ltd	granules
MCPA/mecoprop-P/ferrous sulphate, NPK	EverGreen Complete 4 in 1	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	granules

e) Non-chemical bacteria-based lawn moss suppressants


A number of products such as Viano MO Bacter Organic Lawn Fertiliser, Neudorff Organic CleanLawn and 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.

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a) Lawn mosskillers

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
ferrous sulphate plus N	Lawn Sand	Garden Direct	sand
ferrous sulphate plus N	Green Up Lawn Sand	Vitax Ltd	sand
ferrous sulphate plus N	Lawn Sand	Westland Horticulture Ltd	sand
ferrous sulphate plus N	Evergreen Mosskill Liquid	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
ferrous sulphate plus seaweed extract	Maxicrop Moss killer and Lawn Tonic	SBM Life Science Ltd	liquid concentrate
ferrous sulphate plus NPK	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)	CleanLawn Moss Control for Lawns	Neudorff UK Ltd	concentrate

b) Moss and algae killers (not lawn)

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

c) Garden cleaners

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Algon Organic Path, Patio and Decking Cleaner	Algon Ltd	liquid concentrate
acetic acid	Ecofective Path, Patio & Decking Cleaner	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	liquid concentrate
acetic acid	RHS Path, Patio & Decking Cleaner	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	liquid concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Patio Magic	Brinton Products	liquid concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Super Concentrate Path Patio and Decking Cleaner	Doff Portland Ltd	soluble sachet
benzalkonium chloride	Resolva Xtra Clean	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
garden cleaner/ disinfectant based on para-chloro-meta-cresol	Jeyes Fluid	Jeyes UK	liquid concentrate
nitrilo triacetic acid/trisodium salt	Job Done Garden Path & Patio Cleaner	SBM Life Science Ltd	liquid concentrate
non-acid surface cleaner	Jeyes Patio Power Cleaner	Jeyes UK	liquid concentrate
surfactant	Path & Patio Liquid Cleaner	Vitax Ltd	liquid concentrate
surfactant based on seaweed	Just Patio and Concrete Cleaner	Just Green Ltd	liquid concentrate
surfactant based on plant extracts	Just Glasshouse Cleaner	Just Green Ltd	liquid concentrate
surfactants and probiotics	Ecofective Safe to Clean	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd	liquid concentrate

d) Water butt purification

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
naturally-occurring plant extract	Water Butt Treatment	Biotal Ltd	liquid concentrate
naturally-occurring micro-organisms	AquaHydrotech Water Butt Fresh	Eco Pond Ltd	liquid concentrate
naturally-occurring plant extract	Just Green Water Butt cleaner	Just Green	liquid concentrate


3. Contact Herbicides

Contact herbicides 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.

* These products work by contact action with an inhibitor of regrowth

**These products work by both contact and systemic action

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Weedol Fast Acting Gun! (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	Origins Weed Control (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	Roundup Speed Ultra (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	Ecofective Weed Blast (RTU)	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	RHS Weedkiller (RTU)	Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	ready-to-use spray

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
acetic acid	Garden Weedkiller (RTU)	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use spray
fatty acids	Solabiol Super Fast Weedkiller (RTU)	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use spray
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	24/7 Fast Acting Weedkiller (RTU)	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use spray
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Weedfree Express (RTU)	Neudorff UK Ltd	ready-to-use spray
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Resolva Zero Weedkiller (RTU)	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use spray
*pelargonic acid/maleic hydrazide	Weedfree Plus (RTU)	Neudorff UK Ltd	ready-to-use spray
*pelargonic acid/maleic hydrazide	Weedfree Plus Concentrate	Neudorff UK Ltd	liquid concentrate
**glyphosate/diquat	Resolva 24H Liquid Concentrate	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
**glyphosate/diquat	Resolva 24H (RTU)	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use spray



4. Systemic Herbicides

Systemic herbicides are non-selective and non-residual. They differ from contact herbicides in that when applied to the foliage the herbicide moves down into the root system of the weed. This makes systemic herbicides 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 stronger formulations are marketed as stump killers and are usually applied in the dormant period.

**These products work by both contact and systemic action*

***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	Glyphosate Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Maxi Strength Glyphosate Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Advanced Weedkiller (RTU)	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use spray
glyphosate	Path & Patio Weedkiller (RTU)	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use spray
glyphosate	Job Done General Purpose Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
glyphosate	Job Done General Purpose Weedkiller (RTU)	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Job Done Tough Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	soluble sachets
glyphosate	Job Done Tough Tree Stump Killer	SBM Life Science Ltd	soluble sachets
glyphosate	Job Done Path Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	soluble sachets

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
glyphosate	Roundup Fast Action (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
glyphosate	Roundup Gel (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	gel
glyphosate	Roundup Tree Stump & Rootkiller	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Roundup Ultra	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Deep Root Ultra Tree Stump & Weedkiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Resolva Xtra Tough	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use
glyphosate	Resolva Xtra Tough Concentrate	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
*glyphosate/diquat	Resolva Path & Patio	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
*glyphosate/diquat	Resolva Path & Patio (RTU)	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use spray
*glyphosate/diquat	Resolva 24H Liquid Concentrate	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
*glyphosate/diquat	Resolva 24H (RTU)	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use spray
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Ultra Tough	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Gun! Ultra Tough (RTU)	Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray

5. Residual Herbicides

Residual herbicides (used in combination with the systemic herbicide glyphosate) can be soil-acting or foliar-acting, the herbicide 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.

* Option on the label to use around large shrubs, trees and woody plants

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

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL USE HERBICIDES SAFELY

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Herbicide Legislation

Some garden herbicides have been withdrawn from the market recently (see individual sections) 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.

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 Road, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8LT	(01772) 823370	www.algonorganics.co.uk
Biotol Ltd	11-13 Spring Lane North, Malvern Link, Worcs WR14 1BU	(01684) 891055	www.biotol.co.uk
Brinton Products	24 Roseneath Road, London SW11 6AH	(0845) 505976*	www.brintonproducts.co.uk
Doff Portland Ltd	Aerial Way, Hucknall, Notts NG15 6DW	(0115) 9834300	www.doff.co.uk
Eco Pond Ltd	Odessa Farm, Hoggington Lane, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 9NS	(01225) 767919	www.ecopond.co.uk
Evergreen Garden Care (UK) Ltd	1 Archipelago, Lyon Way, Frimley, Surrey GU16 7ER	(01276) 401300	www.lovethegarden.com
Garden Direct	The Garden Centre, Birchall Lane, Cole Green, Hertford SG14 2NR	(0845) 2170788	www.gardendirect.co.uk
Jeyes Fluid	Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4RQ	(0845) 4900176	www.jeyesfluid.co.uk
Just Green Ltd	Unit 14 Springfield Road Industrial Estate, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8UA	(01621) 785088	Available from www.amazon.co.uk
Neudorff UK	Vienna House, Birmingham International Park, Solihull B37 7GN	(0121) 7671821	www.neudorff.co.uk
SBM Life Science Ltd	Unit 2, Techno Park, Newmarket Rd., Cambridge CB5 8PB	(0845) 3454100*	www.protect-garden.co.uk www.solabiol.com/en
Sipcam Home & Garden Ltd.	4 Archway House, The Lanterns, Melbourne St, Royston, Herts SG8 7BX	(01763) 212103	www.ecofective.uk.com
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	14 Granville Industrial Estate, Granville Road, Dungannon, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland BT70 1NJ	(028) 8772 7500	www.gardenhealth.com

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