

Weedkillers for Home Gardeners

RHS Gardening Advice
March 2018



Sharing the best in Gardening

Inclusion of a product in this leaflet does not indicate a recommendation or endorsement by the RHS. 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

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
2,4-D/dicamba/mecoprop-P/MCPA	Job Done Lawn Weedkiller (RTU)	SBM Life Science Ltd	ready-to-use spray
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	Doff Lawn Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use
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	Scotts Company (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)	Scotts Company (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	Scotts Lawn Builder Lawn Food plus Weed Control	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	granules
2,4-D/dicamba plus NPK	Evergreen Premium plus Lawn Food	Scotts Company (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 Plus Mosskiller	Vitax Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/mecoprop-P plus NPK	Lawn Feed, Weed & Mosskiller	Westland Horticulture Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate/2,4-D/mecoprop-P plus NPK	Aftercut All-in-One	Westland Horticulture Ltd	granules
MCPA/mecoprop-P/ferrous sulphate, NPK	EverGreen Complete	Scotts Company (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 Scotts 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 Feed & Moss	Scotts Company (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 Moskil with lawn food	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	granules
ferrous sulphate plus NPK	Aftercut Autumn All in 1	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	Weed & Moss Killer (RTU)	Ecofective	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 and Patio Cleaner	Algon Ltd	liquid concentrate
acetic acid	Path, Patio & Decking Cleaner	Ecofective	liquid concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Patio Magic	Brinton Products Ltd	liquid concentrate
benzalkonium chloride	Super Concentrate Path Patio and Decking Cleaner	Doff Portland Ltd	soluble sachet
benzalkonium chloride	Easy Clean (RTU)	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use spray
benzalkonium chloride	Hero Paving & Decking Power Cleaner	Westland Horticulture Ltd	liquid concentrate
garden cleaner/disinfectant based on para-chloro-meta-cresol	Jeyes Fluid	Jeyes UK	liquid concentrate

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
nitrilo triacetic acid/trisodium salt	Bayer 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 seaweed	Just Glasshouse Cleaner	Just Green Ltd	liquid concentrate
surfactants and probiotics	Safe to Clean	Ecotective	liquid concentrate

d) Water butt purification

Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
naturally-occurring plant extract	Water Butt Treatment	Biotall Ltd	liquid concentrate
naturally-occurring micro-organisms	AquaHydrotech Water Butt Fresh	Eco Pond Ltd	liquid concentrate
naturally-occurring plant extract	Just 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)	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	Origins Weed Control (RTU)	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
acetic acid	Weed Blast (RTU)	Ecotective	ready-to-use spray
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 Superfast Weedkiller (RTU)	Doff Portland Ltd	ready-to-use spray
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Fast Acting Weedkiller (RTU)	Neudorff UK Ltd	ready-to-use spray

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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
pelargonic acid (fatty acid)	Resolva Zero Weedkiller (RTU)	Westland Horticulture Ltd	ready-to-use spray
*pelargonic acid/maleic hydrazide	Fast Acting & Long Lasting Weedkiller (RTU)	Neudorff UK Ltd	ready-to-use spray
*pelargonic acid/maleic hydrazide	Fast Acting & Long Lasting Weedkiller 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	Knockdown Super Strength Glyphosate Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	soluble sachets
glyphosate	Glyphosate Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Maxi Strength Glyphosate Weedkiller	Doff Portland Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Glyphosate 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
glyphosate	Fast Action Roundup (RTU)	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	ready-to-use spray
glyphosate	Roundup Gel (RTU)	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	gel
glyphosate	Roundup Tree Stump & Rootkiller	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate

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glyphosate	Roundup Ultra	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
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Active Ingredient	Proprietary Name	Manufacturer/Source of Supply	Formulation
glyphosate	Weedfree Concentrate	Vitax Ltd	liquid concentrate
glyphosate	Weedfree (RTU)	Vitax Ltd	ready-to-use spray
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	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
**glyphosate/ pyraflufen ethyl	Weedol Gun! Ultra Tough (RTU)	Scotts Company (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	Bayer Garden Path & Drive Weedkiller	SBM Life Science Ltd	concentrate
*glyphosate/diflufenican	Weedol Pathclear Weedkiller	Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	liquid concentrate
*glyphosate/diflufenican	Weedol Pathclear Weedkiller (RTU)	Scotts Company (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

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
Ecofective	4 Archway House, The Lanterns, Melbourne St, Royston, Herts, SG8 7BX	(01763) 212103	www.ecofective.uk.com
Eco Pond Ltd	Odessa Farm, Hoggington Lane, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 9NS	(01225) 767919	www.ecopond.co.uk
Garden Direct	P O Box 631, Jersey, JE4 8YE	(01534) 876494	www.gardendirect.co.uk
Jeyes Groups Ltd	Jeyes House, Brunel Way, Thetford, IP24 1HF	(01842) 757575	www.jeyes.com
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.co.uk
Scotts Company (UK) Ltd	1 Archipelago, Lyon Way, Frimley, Surrey, GU16 7ER	(01276) 401300	www.lovethegarden.com
Viano	Wijngaardveld 36, B-9300 Aalst, Belgium	(0032) 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

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

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