

Why are you doing this?	A council motion was brought at full council in March 2021 that agreed SCC would produce an action plan on the elimination of the use of pesticides by the council, inclusive of Glyphosate within 3 years. In order to determine our long-term weedkilling strategy we need to conduct a trial of alternative methods.
I don't want to be part of the trial, what can I do?	The trial areas have been selected with the agreement of all ward members and have been chosen for their location, terrain and ease of access. Signage has been erected and the trial has commenced so changes can't be made to the locations as the chemical cost has been determined based on these locations.
How much is this costing?	The trial is being conducted with existing resources from the Local Services teams. The only additional cost incurred has been to hire a hot foam machine to test this weed control method.
How can I tell you what I think about this?	We welcome feedback so please engage with us using our Let's Talk Weeds - Sunderland City Council feedback form.
How can I help with the trial?	It's important that our trial is allowed to run without additional resources or intervention from our residents as we will be unable to measure the impact of this involvement. The best way to help us is to give us your valuable feedback via our Let's Talk Weeds - Sunderland City Council feedback form:
How long will it last?	The trial will run for the period 01 April to 30 September 2023
What are other authorities doing?	Many authorities are conducting similar trials and trying alternative methods of weed control to help inform their long term weed control strategies. The most comprehensive study to date has been produced by Cardiff Council and can be read here: (Public Pack)Supplementary Item - Weed Trial Presentation Agenda Supplement for Environmental Scrutiny Committee, 12/01/2023 16:30 (moderngov.co.uk)
Does glyphosate cause cancer?	The World health Organisation states, "Under usual conditions, therefore, the presence of glyphosate and AMPA in drinking-water does not represent a hazard to human health" The report can be read in its entirety here: glyphosate-and-ampa-fact-sheet-2022.pdf (who.int)
What products are you using?	As part of our trial we are using glyphosate, Acetic Acid (a vinegar-based solution), hot foam and strimming.

How are you going to clean up after the trial is finished?	Any unmanageable weeds will be removed as soon as practicable, following the end of the trial period.
How were the areas selected?	The trial areas have been selected with the agreement of all ward members and have been chosen for their location, terrain and ease of access.
Can we plant wildflowers instead?	We are already planting wildflowers in many locations across the City. Wildflower planting is not suitable for all areas regretfully.
I want to contact my Councillor about this.	Contact details of all Councillors can be found here: Members (sunderland.gov.uk) in addition to contacting your Councillor please let us know what you think via our Let's Talk Weeds - Sunderland City Council feedback form.