

WEED-IT

Details

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| Clients | Carillion Road Maintenance |
| Date | Summer 2005 |
| Location | Surrey |
| Working with | Surrey County Council |

Industrial strength glyphosate is sprayed directly onto weeds, through five sensor nozzles built into a shrouded box, positioned at the front of what looks like a ride on lawnmower, enabling targeted treatment of footpaths from March to October/November each year, weather dependent.

Eliminating weeds on East Surrey's footpaths

Covering the whole of East Surrey, Complete Weed Control are specialists contracted by the Partnership to carry out weeding works using a time, material and cost effective device called WEEDIT, Weed Economical Eradication Detection Intelligent Technology.

Every plant contains chlorophyll. The sensor recognises this and assumes any detection of chlorophyll on a footpath means a weed is present, triggering the nozzle and releasing glyphosate. A hand lance, operated by the ride on passenger using pedals to release the chemical, treats the back-edge and kerb.

WEEDIT can cover a distance of 50-70km each day, allowing for a total of 16 applications across East Surrey in nine months. As it is targeted, there is a 50-70% saving of chemical use, reducing the amount of pollution created. Its efficiency saves time and money as previously a quad bike would continually spray chemical across the entire footpath travelling up and down numerous times per spray, to ensure blanket coverage.



The spray contains 360g of glyphosate per litre, three times stronger than consumer products found in garden centres, and contains additives called surfactants which make the product stick to the plant when treated, making it more effective. As a contact herbicide, glyphosate neutralises on contact with soil so is not harmful to people or animals.