

BALI Statement: Glyphosate use by landscape professionals

The British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) is committed to championing the highest standards of design, construction and maintenance in the landscape industry. We proudly support the activities of the landscape profession whilst respecting both the important role our members play as custodians of the landscape, and the intrinsic value of protecting the environment.

Our members supply equipment and manage every type of landscape. Our contractor members are appropriately trained and skilled in applying chemicals in a manner that is safe, environmentally friendly and effective.

Just as no two landscapes are the same, our members understand there is no one-size fits-all weed treatment solution. Chemical is one method of control which may be used as part of an integrated weed management strategy. There is a risk associated with any chemical, which is why BALI advocates their use in conjunction with appropriate training and in accordance with manufacturer guidance.

A recent court case in America, where a jury has linked glyphosate in Roundup with a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, has not changed BALI's stance regarding glyphosate as an appropriate method of chemical weed control in the professional landscape industry. BALI does not regard a jury decision on a single court case as an appropriate catalyst for immediate change.

BALI relies on technical guidance from The Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Division. We would like to remind stakeholders that, following review of scientific data in November 2017, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment found no link between cancer in humans and glyphosate use.

BALI will continue to monitor the scientific evidence presented, but until new guidance emerges from regulatory bodies including the Health and Safety Executive, will continue to advocate the use of Glyphosate according to industry best practice and as part of an integrated weed management strategy.