



MAPP 16162

Bystander information

Why is this operator spraying weeds and is weed control really necessary?

Weed control on amenity areas such as play areas, mowing margins, and shrub beds is a necessary service undertaken on behalf of local government. A good quality, consistent weed control programme is required as it reduces slip and trip hazards, potential access issues, reduces the damage caused by root growth to urban surfaces and improves aesthetic appeal. Weeds can also harbour pests and diseases.

Why use Katana in a mixture with glyphosate?

Katana used in a mixture with glyphosate is an efficient and cost-effective method for the broad-spectrum treatment of weeds. It combines the activity of a residual and total systemic herbicide.

In most cases, use of the mixture can reduce the amount of glyphosate applied to just one application per season .

Katana can control weeds for up to eight months, so reducing strimming and mowing operations. Alternative methods (e.g. steam) don't last for long and can have a higher carbon footprint.

Is it safe and how soon after application can people and pets use the area?

Yes, Katana (flazasulfuron) is classified as non-toxic for skin, ingestion, inhalation, and is non carcinogenic. It works by acting on an enzyme found in plants. As for re-entry there is no requirement to restrict access to an area that has been treated with a mixture of Katana plus glyphosate under normal usage conditions, by people, pets and wildlife. However, it is recommended not to walk into areas where the spray could still be wet, as this could lead to transfer to other areas and damage to other plants and foliage.





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Are any qualifications required to use Katana plus glyphosate?

UK law requires professional operators to hold at least NPTC PA1 and PA6 certifications to apply herbicides. Training covers the safe use, storage and handling of pesticides, with emphasis on techniques that apply the correct products safely.

What are the PPE (Personnel Protection Equipment) for using Katana plus glyphosate?

Whilst products vary in terms of their chemistry, the specific PPE requirement is always detailed on the product label. For application of diluted product, as in an amenity setting, coveralls are required. The use of engineering solutions such as low drift nozzles, can preclude the need for further PPE .

Useful links and resources

HSE "Frequently Asked Questions":

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Amenity Forum (information on Best Practice in the amenity sector):

<http://www.amenityforum.co.uk>

