

RESPONSIBLE PESTICIDE USE IN GUERNSEY

Guernsey's douits, streams, reservoirs and groundwater are at risk of pollution by small residues of pesticides some of which are not easily removed by water treatment processes. Safe drinking water limits are set extremely low at 100 nanograms per litre, (0.1 parts per billion).

In order to reduce chemical residues in the environment, Guernsey Water advises that pesticides (herbicides / insecticides etc) should not be applied to vulnerable areas such as stream banks, ponds, wet meadows, marshy areas, douits, drainage ditches, underground culverts or paved areas. These guidelines apply even if the areas are dry at the time of the proposed application and even if the product labelling indicates suitability for use in or near watercourses.

Pesticides should not be applied in wet or windy conditions, or if immediate rain is forecast as this will lead to run-off and contamination.

Slug pellets containing 'Metaldehyde' should not be applied within ten metres of vulnerable areas.



Alternative methods "Going Green"

Where possible weed by hand, utilise mulching or weed barriers for weed control in borders, use a flame gun or hot water to scorch weeds, use "Ferric phosphate" or beer traps for slugs and snails. Vinegar acid sprays are also now available if used carefully. *Or simply learn to love your weeds and the diversity of wildlife they can bring to your garden.*

Direct application

"Weed wipe" or gel application systems, may be carefully used up to one metre from the edge of the vulnerable areas identified above.

Application by spraying

Spraying should not be carried out within three metres of the vulnerable areas identified above. Spraying on paved areas should be avoided if at all possible, hand weeding or direct application methods are best under these circumstances.

Commercial application of Pesticides

The commercial application of pesticides to domestic, agricultural and horticultural premises, must only be undertaken by trained personnel holding a certificate of competence. For further advice, please contact the Health & Safety Executive on telephone number 234567. Washings from containers must not be allowed to enter surface water gullies or drains. For further advice or in the event of a spillage, Guernsey Water should be contacted on 239500.