



SUFFOLK
HIGHWAYS
www.suffolk.gov.uk/highways

Weed Treatment Quick Guide

**Our commitment to undertaking
weed treatments to maintain safety
and prevent damage to the highway**



Why do we treat weeds?

We primarily treat weeds for safety purposes, as weed growth can interfere with visibility and obstruct road signs.

Weeds in kerbs and around drains can prevent or slow down drainage.

Weeds can also damage paving slabs, destroy highways surfaces, crack walls and increase our maintenance costs.

What weed treatment do we use?

A Monsanto Amenity Glyphosate systemic solution is used which is approved for use in the UK as safe for use in areas open to the public and their pets. On contact with soil, the herbicide breaks down into harmless substances. However, we advise not having contact with the solution until it is fully dry.





Where do we treat weeds?

Weed treatments are undertaken along the kerb next to the road channel. Treatments are also carried out at the back of the pavement where a building or wall is present.

How often we treat weeds

In urban areas, such as large towns, we deliver two treatments per year with an additional treatment where harmful or noxious weeds are identified. Suffolk County Council's facilities management contractor, Vertas undertakes weed treatments in Ipswich on our behalf.

Suffolk Highways does not carry out an annual weed treatment programme in rural areas. Where harmful or noxious weeds are identified, these will be treated on a site-specific basis.

[Visit the Weed Control page on our website for more information](#) on how weeds are managed in your area including programmes of work.

When do we treat weeds?

Treatments start after the 'spring weed flush' (when weeds start to grow and before they get the chance to seed).



We monitor the weather forecast as rain can weaken our treatment solution, reducing its effectiveness. Spraying during high winds will also reduce the amount of chemical that comes into contact with the weed.

Although treatment is weather dependent, it generally starts in April and is completed by the end of October.



What weeds do we treat?

In addition to general weeds, Suffolk Highways will deal with injurious weeds and invasive non-native weeds within public highways.

The Weeds Act 1959 defines these weeds as:

- broad leaf dock • common ragwort • creeping or field thistle
- curled dock • spear thistle • Japanese knotweed • giant hogweed

Help us to help you!

If you see weeds on the highways which could cause injury or become invasive, you can report this to us quickly and easily using our [online Highways Reporting Tool](#).

Landowners and occupiers are responsible for dealing with injurious and invasive weeds on their land. Under section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it can be an offence to plant or grow certain specified plants in the wild, including Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed, if these are allowed to spread to adjacent land.

What weeds don't we treat?

We do not treat weeds at the back of the pavement where this is a verge or grassed area or in between slabs and blocks in paved areas.

