

Green Spaces for Life

**Maintaining a safe environment
for life, work and play**



Green space in urban settings can help address public health issues related to obesity, cardiovascular effects, mental health and well-being.

World Health Organisation

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Maintaining a safe environment for life, work and play

The value of parks and all green spaces has never been more appreciated.

For physical health, mental well-being and lifestyle happiness the ability to make use of green spaces is now recognised as a necessary and essential right.

Yet at a time of intense financial scrutiny, those managing green spaces are under ever increasing pressure to deliver more, but spend less.

Green spaces still need managing, to both enhance their environmental and aesthetic value, whilst avoiding dangers and issues that can arise. Plant science technologies are essential to help amenity and land managers provide a safe and attractive spaces for all to live, work and play.

CropLife UK advocates the essential role of science and innovation in protecting the quality and public safety of our food, parks, gardens, roads and railways.

It promotes good stewardship, ongoing professional development and best practice among amenity operators, to better protect the public's everyday lives.

CropLife UK members provide plant management technologies for use in the amenity sector to help maintain our transport and public infrastructure, from roads and railways, to parks golf courses and sports grounds.

Proactive amenity management maintains attractive green spaces for life, work, and play.

Amenity and landscape managers' skills and experience keeps transport moving, industry working, sport playing and living spaces safe. All with an emphasis on protecting and enhancing the natural environment and resources.

Highly professional operators deliver the effective solutions, using only the right option, at the right time, in the right place.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Accidents (ROSPA) references all chemicals and recommendations for the maintenance of safe environments and spaces.
www.rospa.com

Residential living

In a society putting increasing value on outdoor living and activity, the active management of the urban environment becomes ever more crucial.

MANAGING RESIDENTIAL AREAS

- Keep pathways clear
- Stop invasive weeds
- Control hazardous weeds
- Maintain open spaces
- Care for trees

Professional use of specific targeted technologies has an essential role to enhance the living environment.

Multi-functional town centres require the attraction of providing lifestyle and entertainment services, alongside a commercial role. The value of town centre residential living demands maintenance of the wider environment by professional operators.

Weeds leave urban environments looking unsightly and create a hazard to pedestrians and users. Some weeds, such as giant hogweed, or overgrown vegetation could pose serious health hazards.

Invasive weed species, such as Japanese knotweed, can cause damage and significantly reduce the value of properties. Plant management technologies are crucial for their control.

Areas that are unmanaged and unkempt quickly deteriorate into areas subject to greater vandalism, anti-social behaviour and neglect.

Professional vegetation management, including the knowledge and understanding of what to control and when, ensures communal assets remain safe and useable for all.

The focus of development on green towns recognises the value open space within new build homes.

The creation of an attractive green environment to move into depends on the skills of professional landscapers and land managers.

Urban trees are cherished to enhance the living environment. Their role to cool and shade city streets is ever more important to cope with hotter climates.

To thrive, urban trees need professional care and attention using plant management technologies, including weed control and fertiliser, along with control of pests and disease.



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

- Poisonous and noxious plants
- Damage to properties
- Blocked access
- Trip hazard on pavements
- Falling trees



Green spaces

Parks and gardens provide a green lung in the urban environment. Green spaces contribute an estimated £2.2 bn contribution to public health.

MANAGING GREEN SPACES

- Maintain safe open spaces
- Keep parks and playgrounds accessible
- Enhance ecological diversity
- Control health risk pests

A survey in 2020 revealed 94% of British adults believe gardens and green spaces benefit the environment and make the area a pleasant place to live.

Demand for gardens, parks and open spaces use greater than ever. Gardening and horticulture are among the UK's favourite pastimes. Over 80% of adults in the have access to a private garden. Domestic gardens in the UK cover an area of over 4.000 km2 - equivalent to the size of Somerset.

Outside of the home, public parks and gardens play has a valued role in childhood development; 90% of households with children under 5 use their local park more than once a month. Good access to parks gave a 40% uplift in satisfaction in physical health, compared to those with poor access.

A recent government enquiry received over 320,000 public signatories calling for protection of parks.

Investment in managing parks and open spaces pays dividends. The *State of UK public parks* report cited a £17 return of benefits from every £1 local authority investment in central city parks.

Parks also provide an essential ecological resource. Yet, left unmanaged, overtaken by long grass and scrub, their value for biodiversity can be significantly reduced - for visitors and wildlife.

Invasive pests can make parks a no-go zone, with serious health risks. For example, large areas of public parks have been fenced off from access because of Oak Processionary Moth, with its caterpillars causing respiratory problems and severe skin allergies. It has spread rapidly across park woodlands in southern England within just a few years - and set to move north without adequate controls.

Climate change brings whole new challenge of insect pests, with implications for human health, parks and gardens. With plant management technologies professional amenity mangers can use all the tools available to keep green spaces open and clear.

Parks and green spaces matter. They make a vital contribution to many of our most important strategic objectives, such as climate change mitigation, public health and community integration.

House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

- Poisonous and noxious plants
- Invasive pests
- Unsafe waterways
- Inaccessible areas
- Falling trees



Sport & Recreation

Sport plays a special part in our psyche and well-being. Sport England highlight over 28 million people participate in physical activity every week, with participation greater than ever.



MANAGING SPORT & RECREATION AREAS

Improve sports pitches, parks and playing surfaces

Season-long access to sports pitches

Control damaging pests and diseases

Keep hard surfaces clean and safe to play

From grass roots football to Premier League stadia; council owned pitch-and-putt to Open Championship golf – the availability of sport for all depends on the pitches and playing surfaces.

Providing season-long playability and safety of all sports surfaces demands constant maintenance.

And today's players expect ever higher quality, all year round, for a wider range of sports. At the same time, maintenance budgets for all sports facilities are under close scrutiny and pressure.

Plant protection products play a crucial role in maintaining sports turf health and quality against pests, weeds, and disease. For all-weather and hard surfaces, preventing moss growth and weeds is vital for player safety and maintenance.

A 2020 survey by golf governing body, the R&A, in 2020 reported the loss of plant protection products was the number one concern for future golf course management among greenkeepers and golf course managers in the UK and Ireland.

The Football Association puts the value of grassroots football alone at £11bn a year – with immense gains from social well-being, as well as health benefits and an economic boost.

It cites the benefits of sport to include:

- Improved happiness levels
- Higher health levels
- Increased confidence
- Quality of life benefits

With plant management technologies the professional maintenance can ensure sports facilities are available for play all through the season.



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

Slippery surfaces

Noxious weeds

Trip hazards



Keeping transport moving

The UK transport network covers over 250,000 miles of paved roadway in the UK, along with more than 10,000 miles of rail network to keep the country connected.

MANAGING TRANSPORT NETWORKS

- Keep roads and railways clear
- Prevent vegetation drain blocks
- Manage verges for ecological resource
- Ensure user and passenger safety

The role of amenity managers is imperative to avoid disruption and keep transport moving. Selective and total herbicide use can better manage vegetation and reduce associated safety risks.

Without vegetation control there are major safety issues to road users through the obstruction of sight lines at junctions.

Debris from vegetation blocking road drainage is cited as significant contributor to increasing problems caused by flooding.

For the UK's rail operators, keeping points and lines clear of vegetation for timely and safe rail transport is essential.

Airfield safety from vegetation growing in runways and potential danger to aircraft from bird flocks living and feeding in long vegetation.

Progressive selective herbicide management of verges can enable beneficial wildflowers to flourish, without dangers of long grasses and with reduced mowing. Saving costs and providing valuable ecological resource.



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

Unclear sight lines at junctions

Blocked road or rail lines

Aircraft bird strikes

Flooding risk from blocked drains



Uninterrupted services & industry

Keeping the lights on and communication lines open 24/7 puts immense demands on the UK's service providers.

MANAGING INDUSTRY & SERVICES

- Keep service lines and sites clear
- Prevent fire hazards
- Stop pest damage
- Maintain safe access and operation

Weed vegetation affecting distribution lines and pest damage to equipment are two of the main causes for disruption and outages.

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A planned programme of effective management, by professional operators, minimises risk and maintains services.

Industry keeps working thanks to the targeted use of weed management controls to keep sites safe and secure.

For safe site operation and health and safety compliance, brambles and other vegetation must be kept clear for pedestrians, whilst treatment of moss on fire escapes and rooftops is essential.

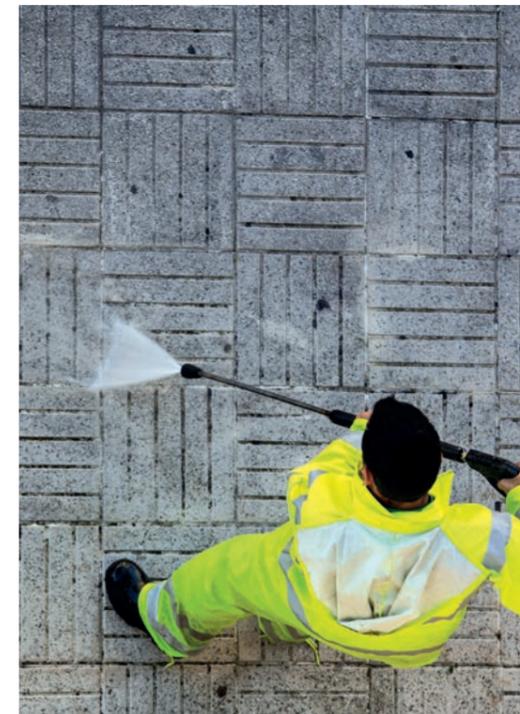
Regular herbicide application will ensure weeds don't become a fire hazard on gravel and hard surfaces.

Professional amenity managers will develop a bespoke integrated site management plan, to meet operational and budget objectives.



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

- Fire risk from vegetation
- Blocked access and safety routes
- Trip hazards
- Power outages and disruption



Public health matters

Wherever there is human habitation, warmth and food, it also creates an attractive proposition for pests.

MANAGING PEST PROBLEMS

- Prevent health hazards
- Keep homes and buildings safe
- Stop waste and loss of food produce
- Prevent fire and damage risks to buildings

Pests frequently pose a threat to health and safety, as well as the discomfort of living in close proximity to people.

Pest control solutions are essential to clear infestations that will:

- Contaminate homes and workplaces and spread disease
- Damage possessions and get into foodstuffs
- Damage property, causing fires and flooding

Rats, mice, bed bugs and lice all feature in public 'Top 10' nuisances.

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) lists over 90 species of commonly occurring pests in the UK - www.bpcs.org.uk/a-z-of-pests

Pest infestations can shut down businesses or industrial premises, where environmental health is compromised.

Rodents are known to be capable of transmitting more than 35 diseases. Infection can come from direct contact, through faeces or urine, or fleas and ticks that thrive on rats and mice.

Rats and mice can also contaminate or spoil three times as much food product as they eat.

Flies can rapidly transmit food poisoning pathogens including salmonella, along with other viruses. Bed bug control is a hugely increasing issue in homes across the UK.

Control of woodworm is essential for structural integrity of buildings.

Professional pest controllers provide an invaluable role in developing integrated pest control plans, to prevent problems occurring and quickly clear outbreaks - keeping homes and business clean and safe.



SAFETY HAZARD RISKS

- Disease spread
- Fire risk
- Property damage
- Business interruption



Integrated amenity management plans

Today's professional amenity manager seeks integrated solutions to manage problem weeds, pests and diseases.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans utilise a full range of mechanical, cultural and chemical options, to devise the most appropriate economically and ecologically sustainable solution to any issue.

Can the problem be prevented? Can the issue be tolerated? And only then, what is the best way it can be managed? Safety and public health will always be paramount.

IPM plans address and balance the implications of all control measures. Using propane gas to burn weeds may reduce herbicide use, for example, but at the environmental cost of climate change gas emissions and non-selective total kill of any non-target organisms.

Used selectively and applied accurately, plant management technologies offer an effective and sustainable solution to amenity management issues as part of an IPM plan.

The Amenity Forum is the UK based, industry led voluntary initiative for the promotion of best practice principles within the amenity sector for the control of pests and diseases in this diverse sector. For more information visit: www.amenityforum.co.uk



Product development and legislation

Plant management technologies used in the UK are rigorously tested and regulated by independent government authorities.

Huge investment goes into the research and development of new plant management technologies that are more targeted and can deliver better results, from lower rates of use.

Products are only approved for use when they:

- Pass all tests for **human** safety
- Pass all tests for **environmental** safety
- Pass all tests for **ecotoxicology** impact
- Pass all tests for **intended amenity** use

ONLY trained operators are permitted to use authorised professional plant management technologies and following the stringent Code of Practice. Professional operators must undertake continuous training and examination.

Accurate application, targeted at clearly identified issues, uses as little input as possible to achieve specific objectives and maintaining an attractive place for life, work and play.



YOUR CHECKLIST FOR AMENITY AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Draw up a comprehensive IPM plan
- ✓ Always use certified and approved contractors
- ✓ Ensure products applied are approved for amenity use
- ✓ Utilise latest application techniques to achieve accurate results
- ✓ Keep detailed records and results to aid future decisions
- ✓ Review and update action plans



CropLife UK represents the plant science industry in the essential role of plant management technologies to safeguard our food supply, protect the environment and improve our quality of life.

Our members provide solutions for use in the amenity sector and maintaining our transport and public infrastructure, from roads and railways, to parks, golf courses and sports grounds, along with homes and gardens.

CropLife UK members develop and manufacture innovative products and technologies that help grow healthy crops and protect the food supply against pests, weeds and diseases that would otherwise result in the loss of 30-40% of food.

Find out more: www.croplife.uk



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