

WEED CONTROL WITHOUT HERBICIDES

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INTRODUCTION

- In the Netherlands the quality of surface waters has improved considerably, but it still contains high concentrations of pesticides.
- An important source is the run-off from roads and pavements treated with herbicides by the local authorities, companies and the citizens.
- In the year 2001 the Limburg Water Pollution Control Authority started a pilot project on weed control without herbicides with the Province of Limburg, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and 8 local authorities (city councils).
- The main-goal is to completely stop the use of herbicides on pavements, roads and in parks in the year 2006.
- In the year 2003 the project will end and the local authorities will have developed a specific plan for weed control without herbicides.
- The benefit of the co-operation with local authorities is that they stimulate each other and they can profit from each others experiences.
- The results of the project will be used by the Limburg Water Pollution Control Authority to stimulate the other local authorities in the province to switch to weed control without herbicides as well.



You can do it too! Follow the three steps

STEP 1



Specific plan

- A decent plan has to be developed for each local authority before switching to alternative methods.
- In this plan the current situation and the future situation without herbicides must be described.
- The city will be divided in different areas, and for each area a specific view/picture for the weed growth must be described.
- For each area the use of the alternative methods for and the frequency of weed control can be described.

STEP 2



Communication

- Develop a communication plan to give the right information at the right time to the right groups/persons.
- Communication is one of the most important parts of the project.
- Communication generates goodwill.



STEP 3



Pilot projects

- Practice with alternative methods in small areas.
- Use the result to communicate and show people your intentions.
- A manual is available which contains a description of the different steps and techniques.



NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL HERBICIDES

- Insufficient quality of surface water and groundwater.
- Bad health and disappearance of aquatic organisms in surface water.
- Pollution of sources for drinking water.
- High costs for the production of drinking water.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF WEED CONTROL

Prevention

- Avoid obstacles
- Avoid joints in pavements
- No useless pavements
- Clean pavements frequently
- Soil covering plants
- Ecologic style of gardening

Techniques

- Hoeing
- Burning
- Brushing
- Hot Water
- Mowing



- Participant
- Participant (partial)
- Without use of chemicals
- Partial without use of chemicals

