

9 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 13 May 2022. You have requested the following information:

In the last 12 months OR for the 20/21 Financial Year please provide the following information:

1. *A list of all pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides) used by the council, its agencies and contractors.*

- Rodenthor and Contrac for Rodents
- Termidor for Ants
- Cimotrol for Fleas
- Enforce Cockroach Gel

2. *The actual cost of these pesticides (cost of the products).*

- Bait
- Cimotrol
- Termidor
- Enforce Gel
- Fury
- Permethrin

Due to the commercial sensitivity of this information, Taranaki DHB declines to provide this information under Section 9 (2) (ii) of the Official Information Act.

3. *The total cost of these pesticides excluding cost of the products (cost of application, storage, health & safety measures, transport etc).*

Due to the commercial sensitivity of this information, Taranaki DHB declines to provide this information under Section 9 (2) (ii) of the Official Information Act.

4. *The volume of each of these pesticides used.*

- Rodant Bait Blocks Approximately 70 blocks per month
- Enforce Cockroach Gel 60g per month
- Cimotrol (fleas) 150ml per 100m² of treated area
- Termidor 90ml per 100m² of treated area
- Fury 150ml per 100m²
- Permethrin 25 cans

5. *Purpose of each product and where they are used*

- Rodent bait for rodents is used on the entire hospital site in lockable tamper proof bait stations.
- Termidor is used for ants, inside and outside of the hospital as and when they appear.
- Enforce Cockroach Gel is used in all wards.
- Cimetrool is used in the hospital for fleas as and when they are discovered.
- Fury is used in and out of the hospital for spiders; sprayed after hours with stand-down periods.
- Permethrin is used in the records room for silverfish.

Please also provide any and all documentation used to support the use of these pesticides including your Pesticides Policy.

- Please find attached a document from the horticulturist used by Taranaki DHB.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Taranaki DHB website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

I trust the above answers your OIA request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Chapman', written in a cursive style.

Steve Chapman
Infrastructure & Facilities Manager

17.5.2022

REQUEST : OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Purpose of Report: To provide information as requested by Kerry Veronica Haddock relating to the use of Pesticides on the TDHB Taranaki Base Hospital site as it relates to Horticultural operations and maintenance

The request is subject to request under the Official information Act.

List of Pesticides used

Country Mile Glyphosate 510 or equivalent [subject to availability/price]

No insecticides or fungicides are used on site. Management of pests and diseases are reliant on good plant selection and horticultural practices. An example of this is the onsite Community Orchard that features labeled selections of local Heritage fruit trees that demonstrate what can be achieved without any insecticide/fungicide use.

Cost of Product

Volume of Product used pa

15 litres concentrate [estimated, dependent on seasonal growth which varies annually]

Storage

Stored within locked cupboard within contractor's locked facilities. [with Hazardous goods store available for bulk store]

Purpose of Product and where it is used

Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that controls a wide range of annual, perennial and persistent weed species

It is a minor part of an integrated weed/growth control approach that includes mowing, edging, weed eating, hand weeding, and mulching.

It is seldom used in actual garden areas [except for persistent weeds.]

It is applied mostly to control kikuyu grass:

- Garden edges where there are no mowing strips [mowing strips are mechanically edged]
- Around hedges and specimen trees in grass areas [where mulching is impractical]
- Around buildings and structures where there are no mowing strips [some of these areas are weed eaten where practical]
- Around bollards, and other hard landscape furniture where there are now mowing strips
- Along asphalt or gravel paths and areas of broken seal
- Along "rough boundaries"
- To weeds growing in cracks in paths and other hard surfaces
- Vegetation removal to form new garden beds [occasionally]

Application Method

Applied using 50 litre electric sprayer mounted on a walker mower deck. Pressure regulator allows low pressure low volume application. A 15 litre knapsack or 5 litre sprayer is used where the larger unit cannot access [eg between cars]

Contractor's obligations under Contract

Weed Control

Refers to control of any adventitious plant not intentionally planted that is growing within gardens and other weed control areas.

Chemical use:

- The lowest toxicity chemical appropriate to the control required shall be used. Use of Trackable Substances will not be permitted.
- Residual herbicides shall not be used on the site
- Application shall not cause damage to plant, person or surrounding landscape.

Type	Objective	Control
Category 1 Garden	Weed growth shall not exceed 25mm in height or spread, or achieve more than 10% surface coverage.	Weed growth shall be removed from site or may be cultivated if desiccation occurs within 48 hours. Herbicides may not be used.
Category 2 Garden	Weed growth shall not exceed 75mm in height or spread, or achieve more than 10% surface coverage.	Weed growth greater than 25mm shall be removed from site. Weeds less than 25mm may be controlled by cultivation if desiccation occurs within 48 hours. Herbicides may not be used for control of weeds greater than 25mm.
Category 3 Bush areas and margins	All pest plants identified shall be managed as per Taranaki Regional Council Pest Plant Strategy For Taranaki	As per strategy recommendations
Around tree specimens in lawns	Weed growth shall be controlled to a radius of 300mm around the trunk (or skirt if extends to ground level). Weed growth standards shall be as per objectives for 'Garden Areas' (above) for each category.	Mulch shall be applied (see below) to achieve weed control and protect lower trunk and root zone. Control shall be as per 'Garden Areas' (above). Herbicides - no direct contact shall occur with any part of specimen i.e. bark, tree roots, foliage.
Within paths, paved areas and other hard surfaces	Weed growth shall not exceed 50mm in height or spread or achieve more than 10% coverage.	Herbicides may not be used for control of weeds greater than 200mm.

Health and Safety

The chemical is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and Safety Data Sheets [MSDS]

Contractor's Safe Working Practice

Activity	Risk	Control
Working with chemicals	Poisoning; irritation or burning to skin or eyes; loss of respiratory function; back, arm or shoulder strain fire or explosion. Damage to non-target plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with Growsafe code of Practice • Check conditions are suitable • Avoid high pedestrian/use times – consider after hours application • Read and comply with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), • Wear appropriate PPE as advised on the MSDS • Note that the use of certain PPE may accelerate the onset of heat stress. • Rotate tasks to avoid prolonged periods of exposure. • Store chemicals to industry requirements • Inspect equipment to ensure working properly without leaks • Personal and equipment decontamination after completing work

HAZARD	eliminate	isolate	minimise
Property and pedestrians affected by machinery noise, dust, flying stones.	Ensure guards are fitted on machines Check site for stones before mowing	Cordon off work sites when they are a significant hazard	Carry out operations during periods of low pedestrian activity. Maintain 360 awareness Stop using machines/spray application when pedestrians within 5m and wait for them to pass. Ensure signage advising of hazards in place
Pathway obstructions by tools and prunings	Stack/process prunings direct onto transport	Ensure tools stored safely out of the way	Carry out operations during periods of low pedestrian activity. Ensure signage advising of hazards in place
Machine operator potential traffic hazard		Cordon off work sites when they are a significant hazard	Carry out operations during periods of low vehicle activity. Wear high visibility clothing Ensure signage advising of hazards in place Maintain 360 awareness
Operator within helicopter landing pad			Observe protocols of the site as laid out at entrance signage Maintain 360 and overhead awareness
Working on tops of drains, terraces [with drop offs], slopes	Consider alternative treatments with lesser maintenance requirement [planting]		Check undermining of drop-offs from below. Maintain sprayed safety strips
Trip hazards and uneven surfaces	Cut and fill any significant humps/hollows Report broken uneven hard surfaces for repair		Spray/mow around raised fixtures

Stones, stick, glass, litter	Collect all litter/hazardous material ahead of the mower		Ensure appropriate disposal of hazardous litter
Fixtures, buildings, trees		Spray around trees and fixtures	Prune to avoid low hanging branches
Eye injury by spiky foliage, sticks, stakes	Consider alternative species for renewal		Wear eye protection when gardening
Working around vehicle pavements slow moving traffic	Park transport out of traffic flow. When loading/unloading position to access vehicle from the path not the traffic flow	Use road cones	Wear blaze PPE Maintain 360 awareness. Stay alert Watch for and expect electric cars and scooters
Working in Hot Conditions	Plan work to avoid the sun Work during cooler periods	Slip slop slap	Avoid dehydration with fluids, hydration supplements
Working in Cold/Wet Conditions	Plan work in sheltered areas		Wear layered clothing/warm hat, quality wet weather gear Warm food and fluids

Contractor's Policy

The operation will be run to achieve a minimal environmental footprint.

Where practicable, principles of organic and sustainable horticulture will be applied

Chippable green waste will be stored and processed on a regular basis for mulch.

Grass clippings, leaf litter and other compostable materials will be used for mulch or soil conditioning.

Where practical, the need to use chemicals for herbicide control will be restricted to the lowest toxicity option.

Alternative methods of weed control will be considered [manual, mechanical].

For pest and disease control, the approach will be to develop a range of plant selections that are pest and disease resistant.

Plants will be maintained in good condition by effective plant husbandry [right plant in the right place; pruning, fertilizing, cultivating] to reduce the need for chemical pest and disease control.

The operation will consider the conservation of water and non-contamination of soils and groundwater.

Soil will be managed to improve and maintain soil condition, texture and fertility.

Contractor's Experience

Apprenticeship in horticulture 1976 with NPDC Parks Division mentored by some of the best horticulturists in the country. Diploma in Horticulture allowed for progression through the organization to finally Manager of Horticultural Operations in the early 2000's.