

18 May 2023

Sam Lasham

s7(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Sam

Request for Information pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 May 2023, in which you have requested the following official information:

- *What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*
- *What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?*
- *What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?*
- *Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?*

We have answered each of your questions below.

What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to areas of wood chip or bark mulch on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?

Our contractors use aged tree mulch on the gardens throughout the city network, The bulk of the mulch comes from tree debris from the city's trees, as part of our maintenance pruning programme.

Herbicides may be used for control for weeds around and within gardens. The main herbicide used for annual and perennial weeds is glyphosate with an additive organosilicone that helps it adhere to the weed plant.

We also use a pre- emergent herbicide on areas that have no application of tree mulch. This helps to prevent weed seeds from germinating, usually for a period of three months.

What chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, fungicides etc.) does the council apply to grass areas on council owned and / or operated parks, recreational areas, and reserves (any public area where people may be foraging for mushrooms)?

A combination of Lawnclean, Rapid or Conquest herbicides are used to target broadleaf weeds. This is applied seasonally twice a year, if required, for high profile grass areas such as the main horticultural lawn, high volume traffic flow areas and sports parks. These herbicides may also be used on selected general reserves and around playgrounds.

Glyphosate is used to target invasive perennial grass species such as paspalum.

Modus, a growth retardant, is applied on selected sites if we need to slow the rate of grass growth. This is done on an as-required basis. This is usually seasonal.

What steps are undertaken to notify the public about areas that have been sprayed?

Approved spray signs are placed at the entrance and exit to a site by our contractors, before they commence the application process. These signs remain in place for 12 hours.

Does the council spray any areas as a response to the growth of illegal (psilocybin containing) mushrooms?

No

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter may be published on the Council's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy