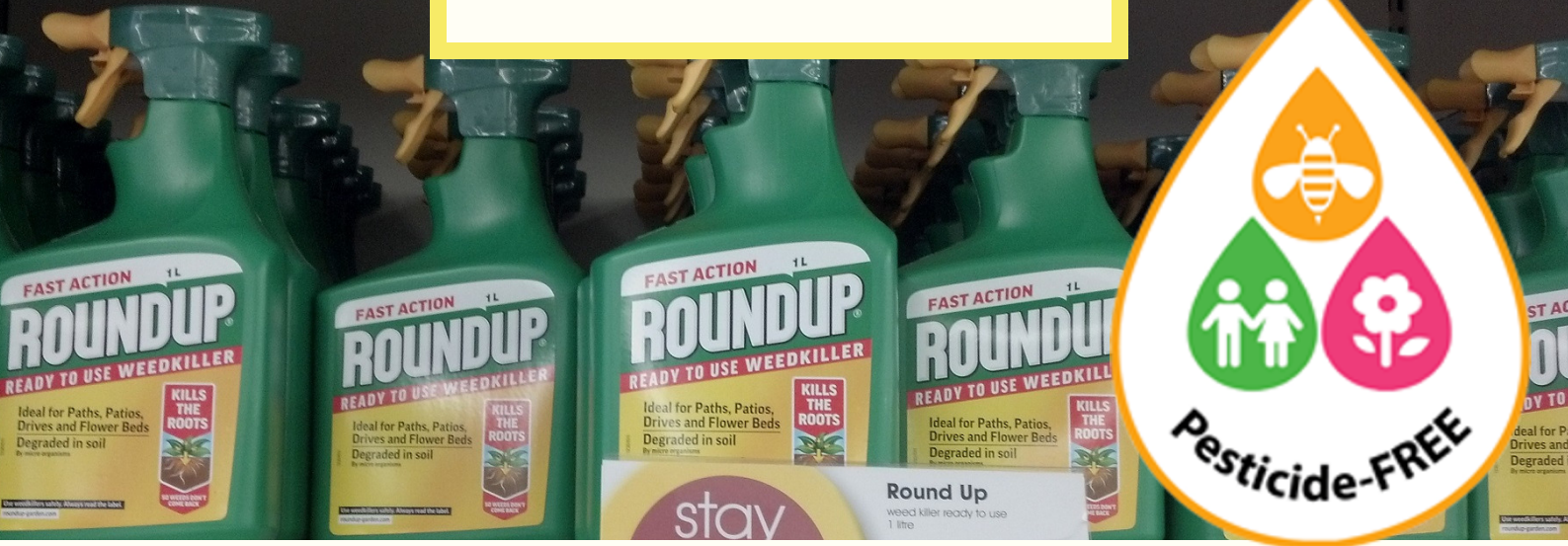


GLYPHOSATE



Be extremely careful if using glyphosate-based weed killers on allotments!

Glyphosate is the plant-killing ingredient in 275 different weed killers ('herbicides') available for the British public to use in their gardens and allotment plots. Familiar products are 'Roundup', 'Pathclear', 'Weedol' as well as 'own brand' products of many retailers. Glyphosate is also the most widely used weed killer by local authorities in the UK, for spraying on kerbsides, parks and other public places.

However, this pesticide is far from safe - glyphosate products have been linked to serious human health problems, including cancers and birth defects. Children and nursing mothers are particularly vulnerable to its effects. In 2015, the World Health Organization concluded that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic", i.e. it could cause cancer to humans. Glyphosate also harms wildlife, including insects, earthworms, fish and amphibians.

Many towns around are banning the use of glyphosate weed killers in public places, due to health concerns, including Lewes, Glastonbury, Wadebridge and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham in the UK.

As well as killing weeds, glyphosate products will kill any plants they come into contact with, including your carefully grown vegetables or, even worse, those of your neighbours! This can happen quite easily through accidental spillage or wind drift when spraying. IF you use these weed killers, make sure to read the label very carefully before using and follow all the instructions to avoid harming other plants, wildlife or people.

WHAT CAN I DO INSTEAD?

By far the best way to manage weeds is by manual, mechanical and other non-chemical methods. You can find practical advice on weed control without chemicals on Garden Organic's website via: <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/weed-management>

Find a guide on managing pests without pesticides here:

<http://www.pan-uk.org/gardening-without-pesticides/>

Find further information on glyphosate here:

<http://www.pan-uk.org/glyphosate/>