BOTANIC GARDENS OF SYDNEY

Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2026

IDENTIFICATION NO.
AFM–ENV–POL-002

Document Control

Author	John Siemon, Director, Horticulture and Living Collections
Date of original endorsement	27 April 2016
Date of effect	13 July 2016
Date last modified	14 October 2026
Current version approved by	Simon Duffy, Chief Executive
Date approved	6 November 2026
Date for review	14 October 2031

Version	Date	Author(s)	Summary of changes
1.0	27/04/2016	George Salouros	This Plan amalgamates the Pesticide Use Notification Plans for Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust. Draft plan for public exhibition.
2.0	13/07/2016	George Salouros	This is the Final Plan following public consultation.
3.0	05/09/2017	George Salouros	Now refers to Pesticides Regulation 2017.
4.0	01/10/2021	John Siemon	This Plan has adopted the Pesticide Use Notification Plan for Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust 2017. The public consultation requirement of Pesticides Regulation 2017 clause 44 is not required for the proposed changes.
5.0	14/10/2026	John Siemon	Five-year review completed. Updated branding, organisational references, review dates and notification arrangements. Legislative references reviewed and confirmed. Minor editorial amendments made for clarity and accuracy. Public consultation not required under clause 44 of the Pesticides Regulation 2017.

Introduction

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how the Botanic Gardens of Sydney (Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust) will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls.

The Botanic Gardens of Sydney (Botanic Gardens) is responsible for the management and stewardship of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, the Domain, Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan and Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah. The Trust incorporates the Australian Institute of Botanical Science and is one of the country's leading international tourism businesses.

Public places covered by this plan

The Botanic Gardens proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls:

- public gardens / parks
- playgrounds / picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- road verges and reserves
- laneways and pathways
- drains, waterways and waterbodies
- other public places (i.e. restaurants and cafés; shops)
- forest / bushland
- amenity buildings.

The Botanic Gardens' estimates of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places are summarised in the following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place [High, Medium or Low]	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens / parks	• general public • sports teams • tourists • families and children	High	• spot application of herbicides • selective herbicides • spot application of insecticides • fungicides
Picnic areas / playgrounds	• general public • tourists • families and children	High	• spot application of herbicides • spot application of insecticides • spray ant control
Sporting fields and ovals	• general public • organised sporting clubs and associations • school sports groups • intermittent organised event related users	High	• spot application of herbicides • spot application of insecticides • broad-scale selective herbicide • broad-scale insecticides
Road verges and reserves	• general public • sports teams • tourists • families and children • event attendees	High	• spot application of herbicides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place [High, Medium or Low]	Type of pesticide use
	• contractors and/or neighbours • staff and volunteers		
Laneways and pathways	• general public (i.e. walkers, runners, bicyclists, drivers)	High	• spot application of herbicides
Drains, water courses and water bodies	• contractors • neighbours • staff and volunteers	Low	• broad-scale non-selective herbicides • spot application of herbicides
Other public places (i.e. restaurants, cafés, shops)	• restaurant diners and café visitors	High	• spot application of herbicides • spot application of insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray ant control • bait ant control • bait termiticides • spray termiticides
Forest / bushland	• contractors • neighbours • staff and volunteers	Low	• spot application of herbicides • fumigation and ground baiting
Amenity buildings	• general public • sporting groups and associations	High	• spot application of herbicides • spot application of insecticides • bait rodenticides • spray termiticides • bait ant control

Notification arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when the Botanic Gardens will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on statutory requirements and the assessment of the Botanic Gardens':

- level of usage within listed areas where pesticides may be used;
- extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides are visiting these areas. The people most likely to be affected by pesticides include pregnant women, children and the elderly;
- extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides; and
- type of pesticide used.

1. Notice of pesticide use

Whenever a pesticide is applied by the Botanic Gardens and its contractors on its lands, we will provide notice by a variety of methods:

- At Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and the Domain:
  - prominently displayed temporary signs will be installed at the location to be treated with pesticides.
- At Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan:
  - in publicly accessible areas – prominently displayed temporary signs will be installed at the location to be treated with pesticides
  - in non-public accessible areas – informational signage will be erected at the nearest access point to the area being treated (including broadacre spraying).
- At Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah:
  - prominently displayed temporary signs will be installed at the location to be treated with pesticides.
- For all estates key stakeholders will be notified by email 24 hours prior to the application.

At all sites, we will exclude visitors from the spray area if there is a re-entry period, as per label requirements. This is in the form of a sign, and where practicable: delineation via fencing, roping off area and/or placement of traffic cones to advise/deny access to the site whilst the application is in progress and during any exclusion/re-entry period for pesticide use.

All pesticide use carried out for or on behalf of the Botanic Gardens must be undertaken by a person qualified to use the pesticide in accordance with clause 32 of the Pesticides Regulation.

2. Instances where the Botanic Gardens will not provide public notification of pesticide use

The Botanic Gardens uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening).

The Botanic Gardens does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of description in this plan or general information provided on the website. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a weed wick wand.

The Botanic Gardens will not give public notification for the use of herbicides applied through stem injection, drill-and-implant and cut and paint techniques.

The application of these pesticides through the methods listed above forms part of regular and routine maintenance activities within the places covered by this plan.

Pesticides applied through the methods above pose very low health or safety risk to persons when applied as per the manufacturer’s instructions.

3. How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

In the areas listed above (see section 1), prominently displayed temporary signs will be placed at the treatment location before pesticide application begins. Signs will remain in place for the duration of the application and will be removed in accordance with the product label instructions. This applies to the following pesticide classifications:

- broad-scale non-selective herbicide
- broad-scale insecticide
- fungicides
- spot application of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control.

Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 39 of the Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

a) a school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre,

b) a hospital, community health centre or nursing home, any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette.

Within the Botanic Gardens there are no defined sensitive places

Notification of emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, ants, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), the Botanic Gardens will, where reasonably possible place signage in the surrounding area providing the public with at least a 10-metre buffer zone between the sign and the treatment area. If this is not possible, the person applying the pesticide will verbally advise the public at the time of application.

In situations where urgent pesticide applications are required to manage Botanic Gardens globally significant collections, the Botanic Gardens will install temporary signage around the treatment area to provide the public and stakeholders with a minimum 10-metre exclusion buffer. Relevant stakeholders will also be notified via email, including details of the pesticide applied.

Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where the Botanic Gardens uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, we will ensure that all contractors are inducted in the notification requirements outlined in this plan.

Commercial service providers working on behalf of the Botanic Gardens will be required to hold appropriate licences to carry out the work.

Where certain sites are under lease arrangement, the lessee will be required to notify the public of pesticide usage as per the requirements listed within this plan. Where possible, the Botanic Gardens will require lessees, as a condition of their lease, to comply with this plan.

What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticides use will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used; and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated; and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use; and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used; and
- contact telephone number and email address of the staff member or contractor who people can contact to discuss the notice; and
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA[1] permit.

How the community will be informed of this plan

The public consultation requirement of clause 44 of the Regulation is not required for the proposed changes. The Botanic Gardens will have a copy of the plan available:

- at its office locations at:
  - Royal Botanic Garden Sydney
    Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000
  - Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan
    362 Narellan Road, Mount Annan NSW 2567
  - Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah
    Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah NSW 2758
- on the Botanic Gardens website.

Future reviews of this plan

The notification plan will be reviewed every five (5) years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- reasons for review of the plan
- public consultation (if applicable) on the notification methods outlined in the plan (i.e. exhibiting revised plan for comment)
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact the Botanic Gardens to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Director, Horticulture and Living Collections

Botanic Gardens of Sydney

Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000

Email: feedback@botanicgardens.nsw.gov.au

or access the Botanic Gardens website.

[1] The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

Appendix 1 - Glossary of terms

Pesticides terminology

Pesticide – The general term given to the group of substances that are used for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, or disease.

Herbicide – These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation. For example, in the Botanic Gardens herbicides are used to control weed growth within garden beds.

Fungicide – These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus; for example, fungicides are used for the treatment of typical turf grass diseases such as dollar spot which is caused by humid weather conditions.

Insecticide – These destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by an insect. For example, insecticides are used in the Botanic Gardens to control a wide variety of insect pests including thrips and aphids within formal garden displays, as well as boring insects that can cause major damage to our trees.

Nematicide – These control nematodes that feed on or damage plant root systems.

Non-selective herbicide – Non-selective herbicides do not target particular plant groups, and will generally have an adverse effect on any vegetation that it comes into contact with. The most common non-selective herbicide used in the Botanic Gardens is glyphosate, which is used to treat weeds in garden beds and pathways.

Selective herbicide – Selective herbicides are formulated to target particular plant types. Selective herbicides are used throughout the Botanic Gardens turf areas and sports fields to treat common weeds such as bindii and clover within grass areas.

Termiticide – Pesticides used for the treatment and prevention of termite damage.

Rodenticide – These are pesticides used specifically for controlling rodent species such as mice and rats.

Pesticide application methods

Spot application – Spot applications refer to pesticides administered using hand-operated spray packs and wand applicators.

Broad-scale application – Broad-scale pesticide applications refer to pesticides administered with a vehicle-mounted boom spray.

Baited application – Baited pesticides are used in controlled environments to target pest species including rabbits, termites, rodents and insects.