

Roundup ProBio - Environmental Impact Assessment

Background

Under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 there is an obligation to consider the environmental impact of pesticides.

According to the Code of practice for using Plant Protection Products, an assessment of environmental effects of pesticides should be carried out in the same way that a COSHH safety assessment is required. The Code of Practice is 'Approved' under Part 111 of the Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985, (FEPA). Whilst failure to follow advice set out in the code will not in itself make you liable for prosecution, it may go against you if you are prosecuted.

In order to assist with this legal requirement, Environmental Information Sheets have been drawn up by pesticide manufacturers and are available from the Voluntary Initiative <http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/Content/EISSheets.asp> website or www.monsanto-ag.co.uk

Roundup ProBio is widely used because of its low environmental impact and specifiers are increasingly requesting an EIA of using the herbicide to be submitted with tenders for their contracts.

Using the EIS below, the EIA could include similar wording to this below, modified for any specific circumstances the individual contract involves.

Environmental Impact Assessment

There should be no adverse environmental impact from the use of Roundup ProBio according to label recommendations. However, Roundup ProBio is a non-selective herbicide and may damage any foliage it comes into contact with. Steps should be taken to avoid drift onto non-target plants by ensuring correctly maintained equipment, suitable nozzles and operating at pressures below 2.5 bar to keep the droplet size within the specified medium-coarse range (BCPC definition).

Environmental Information Sheet

ROUNDUP® PRO BIO MAPP [15539]

A soluble concentrate containing 360g/l glyphosate present as 441g/l

(35% w/w) of the potassium salt of glyphosate used as a foliar application for the non-selective control of emerged annual and perennial weeds in industrial, amenity situations, aquatic areas and forestry

Maximum application rates vary per weed and situation. Refer to the label for details.

Maximum number of applications per annum vary per situation. Refer to label for details.

Section	Profile
1. WILDLIFE Mammals Birds	Roundup ProBio is not classified as ' <i>Harmful to game and wildlife</i> '. Roundup ProBio shows low toxicity to mammals. It poses negligible risk for species that feed on recently treated vegetation (e.g. hares, rabbits, deer) or consume earthworms in treated areas (e.g. shrews, voles). There is no long-term exposure to this herbicide as treated weeds are controlled and are thus no longer present as potential food sources. Roundup ProBio is of low toxicity to birds. There is negligible risk to geese and other birds that could feed on recently treated vegetation. There is also negligible risk for species nesting in and around treated areas or consuming insects and earthworms from treated areas.
2. BEES	Roundup ProBio is of low toxicity to honeybees; there is no requirement to avoid application of the product when bees are foraging on flowering weeds in treated areas.
3. NON TARGET INSECTS AND OTHER ARTHROPODS	At typical use rates, Roundup ProBio is harmless to most species commonly found in and around treated areas, including carabid beetles and ground spiders. In areas where the herbicide is applied, the loss of vegetation will lead to habitat changes and may thereby temporarily affect arthropod populations. The arthropods will however rapidly return as vegetation re-grows.
4. AQUATIC LIFE	Roundup ProBio is not considered as ' <i>harmful to aquatic life</i> ', being of low toxicity to fish, aquatic invertebrates (e.g. water fleas) and green algae. The product is registered for the control of emerged and floating aquatic weeds. When used as part of a weed management programme, there is low risk for aquatic life. In all cases where Roundup ProBio is not applied for aquatic weed control, care should be taken to ensure that surface water or ditches are not contaminated with the chemical or used containers.

