

# BURWASH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## CASE STUDY.

weedingtech

Using Foamstream over alternative herbicide-free methods to save 70% on the annual cost of treating unwanted vegetation.

**Client:** Burwash Primary School through John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance, UK

**Sector:** Education

**Background:** Primary school in Tunbridge Wells

**No of machines:** 1 MW-Series

**Areas treated:** Boundary fences, paths, steps, playground, building edges

**Previous methods used:** Traditional herbicides

### BACKGROUND

In July 2012, the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations came into force, which places additional responsibilities on those using pesticides in public places. John O'Conner specialises in looking after the grounds of many local authority and educational establishments including Burwash Primary School in West Sussex. Their remit at the school includes the management of weeds, along boundary fences, paths and steps, and at the edge of buildings and the playground.

### TESTIMONIAL

*"Foamstream has worked brilliantly here in a school environment where we are working towards a total ban on traditional herbicides. We will feed this into our schools and will be discussing adoption of Foamstream into the business once we have enough schools signed up."*

**Jody Frampton - Area Manager, John O'Conner.**

### PROBLEM

#### NEW REGULATIONS MEANT:

1. Contractors working in public spaces had to take more precautions regarding people's health and that of the environment.
2. Contractors needed to reduce their use of herbicides in these spaces. In addition, the contractors were responsible for addressing the growing concerns from parents about the harmful effects of traditional chemical herbicides.

### ACTION

John O'Conner made the decision to find an alternative method of weed control. In an attempt to find the best method, they tried hand weeding, strimming, citric acid/vinegar and Foamstream.

### RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

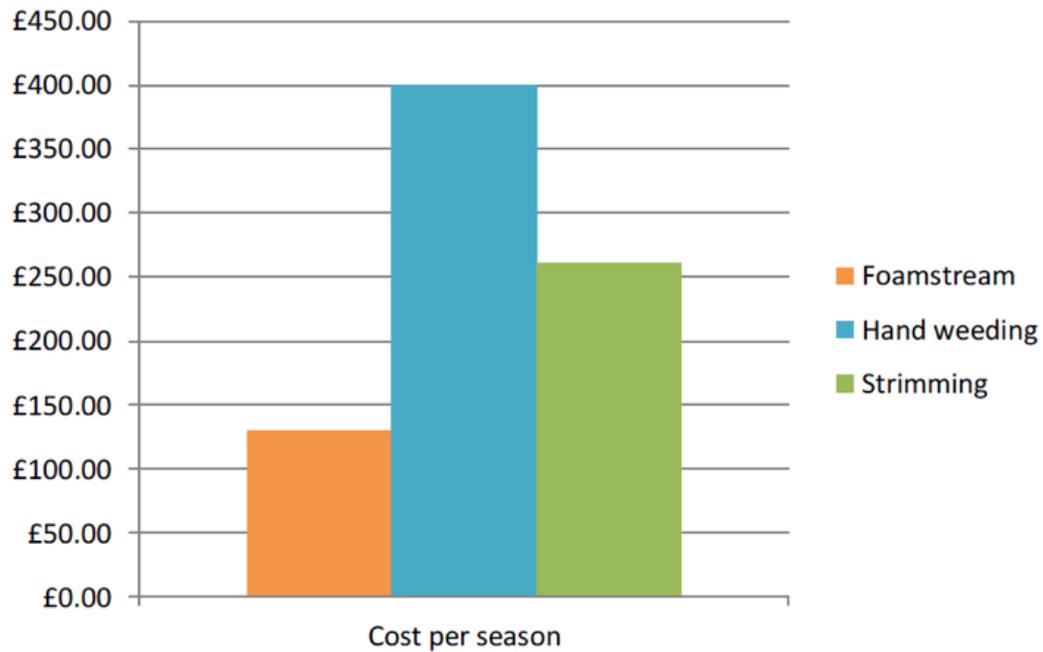
Out of the solutions trialled, citric acid/vinegar was ineffective at killing the weeds and teachers and children complained about the unpleasant smell it left behind. Hand weeding, despite being effective, was very expensive and time consuming. Strimming proved problematic because it didn't kill the weeds, it merely took the tops off, meaning faster regrowth and an increase in the number of treatments required. The noise and flying debris also increased the health and safety risk when operating around people. Foamstream was the outright winning solution. Suitable to use in all weathers, Foamstream gave John O'Conner great flexibility in when they could use the product.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSION (CONT.)

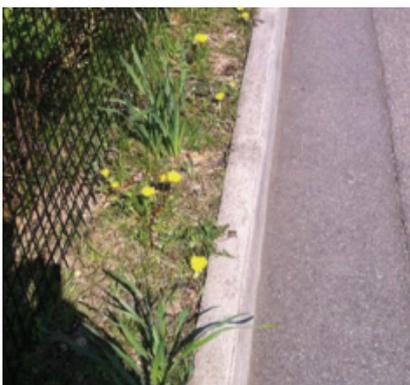
There was a large cost saving against the training and equipment maintenance obligations that previously existed with herbicides. The weeds treated with Foamstream were visibly dead within minutes, with no residue left behind.

Foamstream proved to be not only an effective weed control system but it also answered both John O'Conner and West Sussex Council's requirement for an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional chemical herbicides. The lower cost of treatment over the course of the weeding season in comparison to other non-chemical methods also made it a commercially viable choice, as shown by the graph below.

### Cost comparison per season



NB. Based on needing three treatments of Foamstream vs ten treatments of other methods.



BEFORE APPLICATION



DURING APPLICATION



20 MINUTES AFTER APPLICATION