How to minimize health and safety risks to employees, the public and the environment by using Foamstream.

Client: City of Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada

Sector: Municipality

Background: Population 25,000. It is the urban and cultural hub of the larger community Comox Valley with many beaches, rivers and lakes and natural outdoor recreational spaces

No of machines: 1 MW-Series

Areas treated: Asphalt, concrete and cobbles

Previous methods used: Hand weeding, mechanical weed eaters

Website: www.courtenay.ca/

BACKGROUND

The City of Courtenay is on Vancouver Island. As a city, they are environmentally focused and concerned about their residents' welfare and as such wanted to minimize exposure to unnecessary pesticides wherever possible. In 2007, they passed a law to regulate the non-essential use of pesticides in the city. This was in order to help minimize any potential risk posed to health or the well-being of the environment and was imposed on public and private land.

TESTIMONIAL

"Foamstream is a very safe product from both the perspective of the operator and the surrounding environment. It has created great interest with the public and even requests for us to treat private properties. Thanks to Foamstream we no longer have to worry about our operators injuring themselves or becoming fatigued and we can be confident that we won't receive insurance claims for damage to vehicles which has happened with previous methods. The service support team at Weedingtech are brilliant and always on hand should we need help with our machines."

Barry Boguski - Public Works Services, City of Courtenay.

PROBLEM

1. Employees too often became fatigued or injured due to hand weeding.
2. Unsatisfied with alternative organic methods of weed control such as weedeating, which at times could be costly and dangerous.
3. Needed a solution that was both user and environmentally friendly, and safe for use around people and animals.

ACTION

The City of Courtenay undertook a pilot project to see if there were benefits to be gained from using Foamstream over traditional methods like weedeating and shovels. Traditional methods had proven to be relatively ineffective, with high maintenance costs and repetitive health and safety risks to both operators and the public.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

After a short training session, Foamstream was seamlessly implemented into The City of Courtenay's day to day process'. It had an instant impact on the treatment of areas which had previously been hand or mechanically weeded, such as the public plaza and sidewalks.

The arduous task of hand weeding was causing injury and fatigue to the workforce and leading to repetitive stress injuries. Foamstream instantly addressed these health and safety issues due to its ease of operation and ergonomic design.

Treatment was very effective on hard surfaces such as asphalt, concrete and cobbles, freeing up time for work to be done elsewhere such as the gutter lines along the roadways. Further time was saved by Foamstreams ability to kill seeds and spores which dramatically reduces regrowth and results in fewer treatments being needed. Courtenay especially benefited from the effective destruction of weeds growing in asphalt and concrete which, when left unchecked, can cause severe damage to infrastructure and be very costly to repair.

Foamstream was used to treat grasses, dandelions and heavy moss, with a maximum of three applications across the year. It's ability to work in any kind of weather allowed it to be used all year round. It also reduced the risk of operators coming in to contact with dangerous and unsavory items, such as needles and other sharp objects, by alleviating the need to hand weed certain areas of the city.

The public reaction to Foamstream was very positive, garnering requests for treatment of private properties. It has helped to minimize the health and safety risks for public space employees and is providing a better standard of living within the Courtenay community.
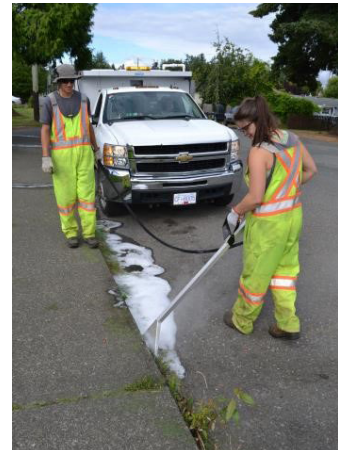
TREATING AROUND CITY OF COURTENAY WITH FOAMSTREAM