

Manchester Water Case Study

Using Foamstream as an all-weather system to eradicate moss around delicate waterways and utilise a workforce to full capacity.

Background

Rainfords Contracting specialise in vegetation and landscape management. With a wealth of industrial weed control experience, they are the appointed contractors at Latchford Locks, an area of the Manchester Ship Canal owned by Peel Ports. Providing an essential crossing over the canal for local residents, the locks are also popular with dog walkers, cyclists and runners. With large amounts of exposed tarmac and flagstones, the locks are prone to moss cover which creates a slip and trip hazard, as well as lending an air of neglect to the area.

Testimonial

“*Foamstream is an excellent innovation and a good step forwards for the contracting industry. It kills moss brilliantly and is therefore an effective, environmentally friendly alternative to chemical herbicides. It is perfectly safe so is ideal for use in public spaces – I'd be very confident using it in parks and schools, for example, as well as any areas near water, where we need to take particular care. I also like the fact that it keeps our teams busy when the weather is bad.*”

Richard Rainford, Rainfords Contracting Services

Problem

1. The usual method of killing algae or moss using disinfectants and detergents are toxic to aquatic life and an irritant to humans and dogs, making its usage near the canal problematic.
2. Peel Ports takes its environmental responsibility very seriously, yet they struggle with the same problem that faces every amenities contractor; in order for chemical herbicide application to be effective, they must apply it in dry, wind-free weather.

Action

Rainfords conducted a moss killing trial at Latchford Locks, using Weedingtech's herbicide-free weed control system, Foamstream. Containing only natural plant oils and sugars, Foamstream is completely harmless to aquatic life and can be used in areas frequented by people and dogs without restriction. A follow up visit took place three weeks later when the moss was inspected and brushed off the tarmac.

Results and Conclusion

Because of its density, the foam did not drift in the breeze. Within an hour the moss had visibly discoloured and started to die. Three weeks later the moss was dried up, brown, cracked and brushed away from the tarmac easily.

The team found the system very simple to use as no specialist chemical training is required and although Richard commented that the work rate was slower than when using a chemical herbicide, the benefit of being able to keep his team working at full capacity irrespective of weather conditions, was significant.

Before application



Foamstream is applied



After application

