



## PRESS RELEASE FOR CIRCULATION FROM FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup>

January 2014

### **FREE UPDATING EVENT ON IMPORTANT CHANGES RELATING TO WEED, PEST & DISEASE CONTROL TO BE HELD AT BINGLEY**

The Amenity Forum has organised a number of free updating events over the first few months of 2014 to address such issues and provide opportunity to discuss fully the implications. The first event was held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January and attracted a large attendance. **The next event will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Bingley in Yorkshire commencing at 1.30pm.** Information on how to book your place is provided below and you are urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

Information on other events planned is provided later in this release. Each workshop will allow plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Each will open with an update on recent policy changes provided by a senior member of the Chemicals Regulation Directorate. This body is responsible for shaping and implementing UK policy on such matters. The presentation will include reference to such issues as the Water Framework and Soil Directives as well as updating those present on the requirements following enactment of new legislation in 2013 relating to the Sustainable Use Directive. This will be followed by a presentation from Professor John Moverley, Chairman of the Forum, who will look at the specific practical implications of policy changes and also other challenges impacting on the sector. The Forum has recently issued a document setting out the key Golden Rules for weed, pest and disease control and John will expand on this, setting out requirements and implications.

A third presentation will be provided by Paul Singleton, Chairman of the Forum's Education & Skills Committee. Paul will identify training requirements, both essential and strongly recommended. He will also give detail on the Amenity Assured standard and the importance of everyone operating at such a level. The final presentation will be given by the hosting organisation for each event providing a personal perspective on the way ahead.

Following on from the Bingley event, other similar events planned are as follows:

- Bourne, Lincolnshire – February 28<sup>th</sup>
- Ashbourne, Derbyshire - March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Maidenhead, Berkshire – March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Stockport, Cheshire – March 18<sup>th</sup>

All these events are scheduled to commence at 2pm.

Professor John Moverley said "the Amenity Forum is the national voluntary initiative seeking to promote best practice in our sector. It is important that industry can fully demonstrate its ability to regulate itself and ensure the highest standards. We have made substantial progress but more

remains to be done and it is vital that everyone involved in this important sector are fully up to date with changes and implications. This is why we are promoting these free updating events and we hope as many as possible will be able to attend”

**Whilst events are free to attend, it is essential to pre-register. This is most easily done by emailing Alan Spedding, Secretary to the Forum, at [Alan.Spedding@amenityforum.co.uk](mailto:Alan.Spedding@amenityforum.co.uk) or contacting him direct. Further information on how to do this is given at the Forum website, [www.amentyforum.co.uk](http://www.amentyforum.co.uk)**

## **FULL PROGRAMME FOR THE BINGLEY EVENT**

From 1pm	Arrival
1330	Welcome and introductions
1335	Update on policy changes and their impact – <i>Grant Stark/ Nigel Chadwick , Chemicals Regulations Directorate</i>
1400	Key challenges and issues for the sector – <i>John Moverley, Chairman, Amenity Forum</i>
1425	Training, Skills and Standards – changes and challenges - <i>Paul Singleton, Chairman Education &amp; Skills Committee for the Forum</i>
1450	Questions & General Discussion
1520	A Personal Perspective – Ruth Mann, Head of Research, STRI
1545	Conclusions & Actions going forward – John Moverley
1600	Forum Event ends

### **Notes to Editors**

*The Amenity Forum is the independent body bringing together professional organisations with an involvement in the amenity horticulture sector. This is a very diverse industry responsible for the landscape management of urban areas, highways and rail network, sports grounds, parks, industrial and utility sites. To establish and maintain these areas to a high standard, the sector requires access to pesticides, efficient equipment and trained and qualified staff. The organisation was formed in October 2003 as a key action to support the Voluntary Initiative, an industry led project agreed with Government to reduce the environmental impact of pesticides.*

*The membership comprises of organisations from across this diverse industry, covering manufacturers, suppliers, trade associations, local authorities, major users, landscape, sport and leisure. Equally important are those members who represent training and qualification standards. The key Government agencies have an important observer role. The objectives of the Amenity Forum are:*

- *To be the collective body representing the amenity industry, in relation to pesticide use*
- *To lead, coordinate and encourage achievement of "Best Practice" objectives in amenity pesticide use*
- *To coordinate and encourage the establishment of sustainable qualifications, training and CPD activity, specifically for the amenity sector*
- *To organise activities within the Amenity Forum membership and linked organisations, such that Amenity Forum objectives are developed in a coordinated way*

***For further information on this press release or the work of the Forum, please contact the Secretary, Alan Spedding, or the Chairman, Professor John Moverley OBE. Similarly if you wish to register for future press releases, please let us know.***

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