



Healthier Growing in Walmer

As gardeners, and vegetable growers, we've all seen the shift to healthier, more pollinator-friendly practices, and the phasing out of toxic chemicals.

Chemicals In Allotments and Green Spaces

Walmer Town Council is trying to cut the use of chemicals in its own green areas and is encouraging the district council to stop the use of glyphosate on the parks and green spaces it manages.

These chemicals should be avoided because they pose severe risks to human health, damage soil vitality, and devastate local ecosystems. Their use leads to chemical runoff into waterways, unintended harm to beneficial wildlife like bees and earthworms, and the evolution of resistant "superweeds" and pests.

Recently we have sent you the updated tenancy agreement that includes a new terms suggesting that chemical pesticides or herbicides should not be used in the allotments. We are one of a number of councils making this change.

Alternatives to chemicals

Visit <https://thenas.org.uk/Wildlife-Friendly-Less%20Pesticides> or click on the QR code for some great advice from the National Allotment Association.

The guidance is:

- pollinators are essential
- healthy soil is full of life
- nature already helps with pests
- prevention usually works better than cure.



Of course it applies equally to allotment holders, to residents with their own gardens and to Walmer's fantastic volunteer community gardeners.

In 2025 Walmer won a gold award from South-East in Bloom, organic practices were praised in the judges comments.

Chemicals to be cut

Chemicals to cut include Chemical herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and molluscicides (both of the latter can enter the food chain and kill wild birds, hedgehogs and pets). We also include synthetic plant growth regulators such as defoliants and desiccants.

To make a plot or garden healthier,

- **Stop using harmful chemicals:** wherever possible.
- **Encourage pollinators:** plant wildflowers, herbs, flowering borders, perennials.
- **Protect soil life:** use peat-free compost and mulch instead of chemical fertilisers.
- **Use natural pest control:** invite ladybirds, hoverflies, and lacewings by planting companion plants.
- **Rotate crops and diversify plants:** to prevent pest and disease build-up.
- **Provide habitat:** leave small areas of undisturbed soil or log piles for insects.
- **Physical barriers:** can prevent pests without chemicals.
- **Keep records:** plan ahead and observe what works well in your soil and replicate it.
- **Practise good hygiene to stop the spread of diseases:** Wash your tools after use.
- **'Right plant, right place':** Healthy strong plants are more robust, less prone to problems.
- **Remove 'pests' by hand:** Or if natural predators fail to arrive, then use biological controls such as nematodes.

If you have any comments then please contact us at:
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or

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Even small changes can make a big difference!

