

Appendix 3: Cambridge City Council - Review of alternative weed treatment options:

Method	Use	Advantages	Disadvantages
Hot Foam	Weeds in hard surfaces, Moss on hard surfaces and play area safety surfacing, Grass growth around trees,	Foam holds hot water against plants Pesticide free Can be used in all weather. Kills 85% of targeted weeds.	New technology needs refinement. Expensive to purchase Additional costs of fuel, diesel consumption and pollution.
Hot water / steam	Weeds in hard surfaces, Moss on hard surfaces and play area safety surfacing, Grass growth around trees	Lower initial system purchase cost	Requires more treatments as heat is not held onto plant. Diesel consumption and pollution increases.
Propane / Flame gun	Weeds on hard surfaces	Relatively cheap to purchase	Health and Safety risk Not particularly effective and very unlikely to be used.
Manual weeding	Weeds in general	Very effective if done well. Low set up costs (excluding labour)	Very time consuming Requires large amounts of labour, which add to cost
Mulching – bark and or membrane	Weed control within shrub borders, under trees etc.	Improves appearance of the site and retains moisture in the soil to aid plant growth	Can be labour intensive, may be expensive depending on supply of material. Note not suitable for footway and road surfaces
Vinegar based solutions	Weeds in hard surfaces	No licence required for application	Has been trialled but has not been effective, Strong smell can give operator headache
Volunteer programmes	Weed control and championing of principles of herbicide free	Residents and Groups may have other priorities and wish to manage weeds in different ways and with alternative methods	Some Groups may not be able to resource this approach in the medium to long term.