



Washington State Department of
Enterprise Services

Glyphosate Usage by State Agencies

December 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Glyphosate is an herbicide that is an active ingredient in an estimated 750 products that are commercially available in the United States, most commonly sold under the trade names Roundup, Spectracide, Promax, and Rodeo.

Section 150(7) of the [2019-2021 operating budget](#) required the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to query state agencies regarding their use of glyphosate, and report the results to appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2019. The proviso also appropriated \$10,000 to DES to pay to state agencies the difference in costs for using alternatives for vegetation control.

This report covers the actions DES has taken to implement this proviso, summarizes the results DES obtained, describes the method DES will use to distribute the proviso funds, and provides the reported data on glyphosate usage.

Agencies reported using approximately 22,000 gallons of glyphosate-containing herbicides over the past two years. Usage was concentrated in three agencies responsible for natural resource management or transportation, where the need to control vegetation is programmatic. Eight other agencies reported low-level usage, primarily for control of weeds at agency facilities.

BACKGROUND

Section 150(7) of the [2019-2021 operating budget](#) provided that,

“\$10,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 is provided solely for the department to query and inventory all state agency use and amounts of glyphosate. Within amounts provided, the department must offer to pay to state agencies the difference in costs for using alternatives for vegetation control. A report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the findings of the query and inventory must be made by December 31, 2019.”

In implementing the proviso, DES consulted with regulatory agencies such as the departments of Ecology and Agriculture as well as agencies likely to be large users of glyphosate such as the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Transportation.

These agencies suggested that DES gather information on the specific types of glyphosate-containing products used, the circumstances in which those products are used, alternatives employed by agencies, and barriers to wider adoption of those alternatives. Agency responses to these questions are provided verbatim in Appendix A.

SURVEY OF STATE AGENCIES

DES developed a web-based survey instrument in consultation with regulatory and natural resource agencies. The survey was distributed to facility managers and other contacts in November 2019. Reminder emails were sent to non-responsive agencies in November and December, and the extended survey period closed on December 24th, 2019. Responses were received from 51 of 91 surveyed agencies.

Eleven agencies reported using at least some glyphosate-containing products during a recent two-year period¹. Table 1 summarizes total reported usage by agency. Verbatim survey responses are provided in a link in Appendix A. Appendix B includes a detailed table indicating the types of products used by each agency.

Table 1. Agency Usage of Glyphosate-Containing Products, Past Two Years	Gallons	Pounds
Department of Natural Resources	9,690.7	-
Department of Transportation	9,540.0	-
Department of Fish and Wildlife	2,225.2	-
Washington State Parks	128.9	-
Department of Enterprise Services	40.8	-
Central Washington University	20.0	-
Eastern Washington State Historical Society	6.0	-
Western Washington University	2.5	-
Department of Veterans Affairs	2.5	6.8
Washington State Historical Society	2.0	15
Department of Agriculture	0.9	-
Total	21,659.5	21.8

The survey instrument included questions on agencies' use cases for glyphosate, including alternatives explored and any barriers faced to expanded use of alternatives.

To test whether purchasing data could serve as a proxy for agency usage, DES queried vendors on relevant master contracts² about state agency purchases of glyphosate-containing products over the past two years.

DES also maintains an Amazon Business account, which provides access to data on most agencies' purchases from that platform. This data was also examined to identify purchases of glyphosate-containing products over the past two years.

¹ Agencies could select any recent two-year period, for ease of data collection, and reported the time period their responses covered in the survey.

² Contracts #02917 (Vegetation Management) and #01018 (Facilities Maintenance, Repair, and Operations & Industrial Supplies)

Summary data on master contract and Amazon purchases of glyphosate-containing products is provided in Table 2. Detailed data on such purchases is provided in Appendix C.

Table 2. State Agency Purchases of Glyphosate-containing Products from DES Master Contracts	Master Contract: Gallons Purchased	Amazon.com: Gallons Purchased
Department of Transportation	2,960	-
Department of Fish and Wildlife	400	22
Department of Natural Resources	37.5	-
Department of Veterans Affairs	25	5
Department of Enterprise Services	-	26.7
Central Washington University	25	-
Department of Corrections	20	-
Military Department	15	-
Department of Social and Health Services	5	-
State Parks and Recreation Commission	-	3
Yakima Valley College	2.5	-
Total (past two years)	3,490	56.7

This data shows a gap between reported agency usage and documented purchases of glyphosate-containing products. Unfortunately, the magnitude of the difference suggests that centralized purchasing data accessible to DES is not an adequate source to determine and understand agency usage.

Detailed survey data may allow for additional analysis of purchasing to determine root causes for this difference. Some reasons may be a lack of availability of specific products on DES master contracts, pricing or delivery terms on master contracts not meeting agency needs, or lack of full compliance with either purchasing or reporting requirements. In some cases, agencies' usage reports may include glyphosate-containing products applied by contractors, who are not required to source goods through state master contracts.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROVISO FUNDS

Agencies reporting use of glyphosate-containing products were queried as to their interest in receiving a share of the \$10,000 appropriated for use of glyphosate alternatives. Agencies with use cases limited to control of vegetation at agency facilities were largely interested in receiving such funding, while agencies with significant programmatic usage were less likely to request funds. Based on verbatim survey responses in Appendix A, this difference appears to be due to past exploration of alternatives by natural resource and transportation agencies, as well as the perceived

cost of adopting some alternatives on a wide scale. Some agencies also noted use cases in which alternatives are not readily available.

In consultation with regulatory agencies, DES plans on distributing funds to interested agencies in early 2020 to allow for purchases and application of alternatives later that spring.

CONCLUSION

Natural resource and transportation agencies' programmatic activities comprised the substantial majority of usage of glyphosate-containing products over the past two years, with the residual used by some agencies for vegetation management at agency-owned facilities. A significant gap exists between reported usage and documented purchases, requiring more analysis to fully understand. Agencies using glyphosate-containing products for programmatic reasons reported past exploration of alternatives, and barriers to widespread adoption of those alternatives. Agencies using such products for vegetation management at their own facilities were more likely to express interest in receiving proviso funds to explore alternatives. Such funds will be distributed in the second half of fiscal year 2020.

APPENDICES

This report includes the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Glyphosate Usage Survey, Full Verbatim Responses:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-2QLKVYKW7/>
Password: GlyphosateSurveyResults
- Appendix B – Detailed Glyphosate Usage Table
- Appendix C – Compiled Glyphosate Purchasing Data

GALLONS	DNR	WSDOT	DFW	PARKS	DES	CWU	EWHS	WWU	DVA	WSHS	AGR	Total
Round Up Pro	4.3	395.0	172.0									571.3
Round Up Pro Concentrate	5.0	6,182.0	210.0		36.8		6.0		2.5	2.0		6,444.3
Round Up Pro Max		261.0	100.0			20.0						381.0
Round Up QuikPRO			8.0									8.0
Total	9,690.7	9,540.0	2,225.2	128.9	40.8	20.0	6.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	0.9	21,659.5

Pounds	WSHS	DVA	Total
Casaron	15.0		15
Round Up QuikPRO		6.8	6.8
Total	15.0	6.8	21.8

**Appendix C – Compiled Glyphosate Purchasing Data
Summary**

State Agency Purchases of Glyphosate-containing Products from DES Master Contracts	Master Contract: Gallons Purchased	Amazon.com: Gallons Purchased
Department of Transportation	2,960	-
Department of Fish and Wildlife	400	22
Department of Natural Resources	37.5	-
Department of Veterans Affairs	25	5
Department of Enterprise Services	-	26.7
Central Washington University	25	-
Department of Corrections	20	-
Military Department	15	-
Department of Social and Health Services	5	-
State Parks and Recreation Commission	-	3
Yakima Valley College	2.5	-
Total (past two years)	3,490	56.7

Master Contracts

CONTRACT	VENDOR	CUSTOMER	Agency	PRODUCT	QUANTITY SOLD (gallons)
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Central Washington University	CWU	Roundup Promax Weed Control	25.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Fish and Wildlife	DFW	Roundup Custom	187.5
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Fish & Wildlife - Moses Lake	DFW	Aqua Neat	97.5
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Fish & Wildlife - Moses Lake	DFW	Roundup Pro Concentrate	40.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Fish & Wildlife - Olympia	DFW	Aqua Neat	10.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Fish & Wildlife - Olympia	DFW	Roundup Pro Concentrate	65.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Natural Resources	DNR	Roundup Custom	37.5
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Dept of Corrections	DOC	Roundup Pro Concentrate	15.0
01018 - Facilities MRO	Grainger	WA ST STAFFORD CREEK CC DOC	DOC	PROMAX	5.0
01018 - Facilities MRO	Grainger	WA ST DSHS CIBS	DSHS	PROMAX	5.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Veterans Affairs	DVA	Roundup Pro Concentrate	25.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	WA Dept of Military	MIL	Roundup Pro Concentrate	15.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Transportation	WSDOT	Roundup Pro Concentrate	700.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Transportation	WSDOT	WSDOT Blend #6 Bareground	135.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Helena Chemical Company	Dept of Transportation	WSDOT	Roundup Custom	450.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Dept of Transportation	WSDOT	Aqua Neat	7.5
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Dept of Transportation	WSDOT	Roundup Pro Concentrate	1663.5
01018 - Facilities MRO	Grainger	WA STATE DOT	WSDOT	SPECTRACIDE	2.0
01018 - Facilities MRO	Grainger	WA STATE DOT	WSDOT	SPECTRACIDE	2.0
02917 - Vegetation Mgmt	Wilbur-Ellis Company	Yakima Valley College	YVC	Roundup Pro Concentrate	2.5

Amazon

Order Date	Agency	Account Group	Title	UNSPSC	Manufacturer	Purchase PPU	Item Quantity	Gallons
5/30/2019	State Parks and Recreation Commission	SW	Roundup Weed and Grass Killer Super Concentrate, 1-Gallon	10171701	Scotts - Mixing Warehouse Items	109	3	3
3/11/2019	Department of Enterprise Services	F6713 Support & Customer Service	Roundup Promax 1.67 Gallon Jug Garden, Lawn, Supply, Maintenance	10171701	MONSANTO	71.96	6	10
3/11/2019	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fish	Roundup Custom Aquatic Herbicide 2.5 Gallon- Glyphosate Monsanto	10171701	BRANDT	74.24	4	10
10/8/2018	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fish	Voluntary Purchasing Group 33693 Hi-Yield Killzall Weed and Grass Killer, 1-Gallon	10171701	Arett Sales - LG	40.8	1	1
10/8/2018	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fish	Voluntary Purchasing Group 33693 Hi-Yield Killzall Weed and Grass Killer, 1-Gallon	10171701	Arett Sales - LG	40.8	1	1
8/14/2018	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fish	Roundup Custom Aquatic Herbicide 2.5 Gallon- Glyphosate Monsanto	10171701	BRANDT	71.32	2	5
6/13/2018	Department of Enterprise Services	F6713 Support & Customer Service	Roundup Promax 1.67 Gallon Jug Garden, Lawn, Supply, Maintenance	10171701	MONSANTO	68.35	6	10
5/21/2018	Department of Veterans Affairs	WSH	RM43 43-Percent Glyphosate Plus Weed Preventer Total Vegetation Control, 2.5-Gallon	10191500	Ragan & Massey Inc	119	1	2.5
5/17/2018	Department of Veterans Affairs	305 DVA	RM43 43-Percent Glyphosate Plus Weed Preventer Total Vegetation Control, 2.5-Gallon	10191500	Ragan & Massey Inc	119	1	2.5
3/28/2018	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fish	Roundup Custom 53.8% Glyphosate for Aquatic & Terrestria	10171701	BRANDT	71.32	2	5
8/14/2017	Department of Enterprise Services	F6713 Support & Customer Service	Roundup ProMAX 1.67 gallon 780671	10171701	MONSANTO	72.45	4	6.68