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WEEDSEEKER[®]

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WeedSeeker reduces herbicide use 90% for the City of Brisbane, Australia.

Environmental concerns and increasing pressure to reduce herbicide use prompted the City of Brisbane Vegetation Management Department to install WeedSeeker sensors on city vehicles to control weeds on 6,000 miles of suburban streets. The WeedSeeker is a unique sensor that detects weeds and sprays herbicide only where it is needed, on the weeds and not on the ground and pavement. The Vegetation Management Department reports that WeedSeeker[®] sensors have reduced the amount of spray applied by 90%, doubled the distance treated each day, and reduced spraying crews to one employee.

Weeds are a major problem along curbs, gutters and medians. Uncontrolled weed growth causes damage and decay to the asphalt or cement. Road maintenance costs are high to repair this damage. Conventional weed control programs include manual hoeing, manual spot spraying, or broadcast herbicide application. These methods are expensive, time consuming, and environmentally damaging to spray herbicide on bare ground where it isn't needed. The City of Brisbane applied several applications of glyphosate each year and saw that a large proportion of the chemical was wasted on areas that were weed free.

Rod Wood of Brisbane City Council and Warwick Felton, Senior Research Scientist, New South Wales Agriculture, Tamworth, collaborated to solve this problem using the WeedSeeker. Four WeedSeeker sensors are mounted on the front of a vehicle to look for weeds. The sensors easily move to either side of the vehicle to spray curbs, gutters or medians. A wind-deflecting shield was added to minimize spray drift. The vehicle was fitted with GPS equipment to accurately map where the vehicle operated, where weeds were sprayed, and how much spray was applied. This provides a comprehensive database of the weed spraying program and carefully assess the effectiveness.

One employee operates the spray vehicle. The operator simply turns the equipment on, pushes a momentary switch to adjust the WeedSeeker to the road surface and drives up to 10 MPH. The WeedSeeker does the rest by automatically detecting weeds and spraying the weeds with laser like accuracy. The WeedSeeker operates equally during the day or night. Night spraying shifts will be added to utilize each vehicle longer and to spray streets where daytime parking limits curb and gutter access.

WEEDSEEKER

NEWS RELEASE - Continued

The *WeedSeeker*® is a sensor-controlled spray system that intermittently applies herbicides only to weeds and not bare ground. The *WeedSeeker*® uses optoelectric technology to detect plant chlorophyll and trigger herbicide application. This environmentally sensitive spray system dramatically reduces herbicide use and lowers chemical costs. The *WeedSeeker*® selective spray system is proven to be successful in vineyards, orchards, cotton, soybeans, roadways, railways, and airport runways. The University of California Kearney Agricultural Station determined that the WeedSeeker reduced herbicide use by 85% when weed coverage was at 5% in vineyards and orchards. Dr. Hanks at the USDA in Stoneville, MS averaged 73% herbicide reduction using WeedSeeker in cotton since 1996. Texas Tech University had savings as high as 85% in cotton in 2000. The U.S. Military uses WeedSeeker systems worldwide to help meet stringent chemical reduction requirements. The WeedSeeker is proven technology both by research institutions, the military and in the field.

For production quality pictures and more information on *WeedSeeker*® research and field study results, or to find a dealer near you call **Brian Carnahan** at **1-888-PATCHEN**. Or visit our web-site at **www.weedseeker.com**.

