

CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1179

Complainant: Mary Jensen
11173 Hearthstone Drive
Fishers, Indiana 46037
317-595-9631

Applicator: Jason Gallaher
Green Scene Lawn Care
1855 East 1000 North
Pendleton, Indiana 46064

Registered Technician
Licensed Business

1. On July 14, 2011, I, Agent Kevin Gibson of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), performed an investigation at the complainant's property in response to a claim of injury/damage to non-target trees possibly resulting from exposure to the herbicide Imprelis. A Notice of Inspection was issued to Mary Jensen. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
 - a) Spruce tree with curled and twisted tips (see figure #1).
 - b) Tips of spruce tree were brown and curled (see figure #2)
2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:



Figure #1



Figure #2

3. I collected the following vegetation samples from visibly impacted non-target vegetation as described in paragraph #1 for examination by the Purdue Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL):
 - a) Spruce

4. I collected the following environmental samples for chemical analysis by the OISC Residue Laboratory:
 - a) Vegetation sample from yard (spruce)
 - b) Soil sample from yard inside drip line
 - c) Soil sample from yard outside of drip line

NOTE: A decision was made by OISC management to not analyze these environmental samples. That decision was based on: 1) the large number of similar cases being investigated by OISC at the same time; 2) the large number of similar environmental samples already analyzed that had produced applicable representative results consistent with the presence of visible exposure symptoms; 3) the expertise developed by OISC investigators through repetition to identify Imprelis exposure symptoms without chemical confirmation.

5. According to a report from the PPDL, *"The sample (and pictures) submitted show symptoms that are associated with injury caused by synthetic auxin (growth regulator type) herbicides. Typical symptoms caused by these herbicides can include epinasty (twisting and curving) of the leaves or needles, shoot and shoot tip; leaf cupping which can be upward or downward, and in extreme cases, new leaves can be irregular in size and shape (usually smaller than normal) and have abnormal leaf margins.*
6. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on April 29, 2011 to the yard at the rate of .10 oz. per 1000 square feet on hand held spray equipment; no application was made to the soil within the drip line of any of the trees or ornamentals; no application was made directly to any exposed roots of any trees or ornamentals.



Kevin W. Gibson
Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 27, 2011

Disposition: No violation of the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law was documented against the pesticide applicator. Effective September 15, 2011, the Indiana registration for Imprelis Herbicide, EPA Reg. #352-793, was cancelled because it was determined by OISC that the product is "misbranded" (it bears label directions that are inadequate to prevent unreasonable adverse effects to non-target vegetation).



George N. Saxton
Compliance Officer

Final Date: October 19, 2011