CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1240

Complainant: Walt Aldorisio
4513 Hickory Ridge Blvd
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-422-4383

Applicator: Rick Cragen — Licensed Applicator
Cragen Lawn Care, LLC — Licensed Business
2595 Endress Place
Greenwood, IN 46143
317-509-1364

1. On July 26, 2011, I, Agent Jay Kelley 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 and shrubs possibly resulting from exposure to the herbicide Imprelis. A Notice of Inspection was issued to Walt Aldorisio. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
   a) Top of Spruce is curled and brown (see figure #1 and #2).
   b) Hydrangea has cupped and distorted leaves (see figure #3 and #4).

2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:


Figure #1-Spruce


Figure #2


Figure #3-Hydrangea


Figure #4-cupping/distortion

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. According to a report from the PPDL, *"Sample consisted of the top growth of a spruce tree. Spruce: There was no evidence of significant disease on this sample. Curling and twisting were present on new growth. Spruce needle miner (Endothenia albolineana) was responsible for some defoliation. It was not responsible for the twig curling. Adults are laying eggs right now and larvae should be feeding in mines inside the leaves. The pictures submitted show leaf cupping and distortion on hydrangea. The spruce sample and pictures, and pictures of hydrangea, 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. When injury results in new shoot dieback in conifers there will be no re-growth this season, and with certain species, such as Norway spruce, the entire tree can die."*

5. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on May 12, 2011, at the rate of 4.5 oz/acre using hand held ground 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.

Paul J. Kelley III

Paul J. Kelley
Pesticide Investigator

Date: August 24, 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

George N. Saxton
Compliance Officer

Final Date: September 19, 2011