

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1578

**Complainant:** Travis Jensen  
10153 Beresford Ct.  
Fisher, IN 46038  
317-557-5310

**Applicator:** Shaun Messenger  
The Greenskeeper Inc.  
1051 Summit Dr.  
Carmel, IN 46032  
317-846-7131

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On August 25, 2011, I, Agent Scott Farris 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. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
  - a) Tops of spruce trees were curled (see figure #1).
  - b) Needles "balled up" and brown on tips of candles (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. According to a report from the PPDL, "*Norway spruce: The branch was mostly dead and showed dieback. The pictures show a tree that was young and may have been stressed by drought last summer. The sample and pictures submitted show symptoms that are typically found to be 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."*

5. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on May 19, 2011, at the rate of 4.50oz /acre using Z 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.



Scott M. Farris  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 23, 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