

CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1587

Complainant: Gary Cornewell
9929 Wheelock Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Applicator: Matt Lordier
Solow Services
9510 Skipjack Cove
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
260-413-0523

Certified Applicator
Licensed Business

1. On September 1, 2011, I, Agent Andy Roth of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), performed an investigation at the property listed above in response to a claim of injury/damage to non-target trees possibly resulting from exposure to Imprelis Herbicide. Behind the house, I observed two Norway spruces with distorted tips, brown needles and tip dieback; one had extensive browning and was dropping needles. Mature white pines in front of the house had minor distortion and stunting of new needles.
2. I photographed the site documenting the symptoms I observed:



Figure 1



Figure 2




Figure 3



Figure 4

3. I collected plant samples from Norway spruce and white pine exhibiting symptoms and turned them in to the Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) at Purdue for assessment.

4. The report from the PPDL for the samples submitted indicates, *“There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the samples submitted. The samples and pictures submitted show new growth dieback (spruce) and twisting, stunting and curving of new needles and stems (white pine). These symptoms 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 color, 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 regrowth this season, and with certain species, such as Norway spruce, the entire tree can die. Stress from environment, site, cultural and chemical factors can contribute to conifer dieback, as discussed in the following Factsheet: <http://www.ppdل.purdue.edu/PPDL/pubs/briefs/Conifer-Dieback.pdf>”*
5. According to application information collected from Solow Services, Matt Lordier applied Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) on May 9, 2011, at a rate of 0.10 oz/1,000 square feet using ride-on, ground application equipment.


Andrew R. Roth
Pesticide Investigator

Date: October 31, 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: November 21, 2011