

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1057

**Complainant:** Paul Reihle  
871 Bennett Road  
Linden, IN 47955  
765-339-7890

**Applicator:** Chris Knight  
Tippecanoe Lawn Care  
4400 SR 25 N  
Lafayette, IN 47905-8394  
765-412-8394

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On June 9, 2011, I, Agent Joe Becovitz of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), performed an investigation at the Reihle residence in response to a claim of injury/damage to non-target trees and shrubs possibly resulting from exposure to the herbicide Imprelis. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
  - a) The new growth on spruce trees was twisted and browned (see Figures 1 and 2).
  - b) The new growth on pine trees was twisted and browned (see Figures 3 and 4).
2. I photographed the site documenting the symptoms I observed:



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

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

- a) Spruce
- b) Pine

4. I collected the following environmental samples for chemical analysis by the OISC Residue Lab:

- a) Injured spruce foliage

5. The report from the PPDL for the samples submitted indicates, *"Samples of spruce and white pine were taken from trees growing in a landscape where the herbicide Imprelis was reported to have been applied on May 2nd. The samples submitted (white pine and spruce) exhibit 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 curling) of the shoot and tips of branches. On conifers, affected new growth may turn brown and die. On broadleaf plants, leaf cupping (upward or downward) may occur and in extreme cases, new leaves may appear irregular in size and shape (usually smaller than normal) and have abnormal leaf margins."*

6. According to the report from the OISC Residue Lab, the following levels of aminocyclopyrachlor (active ingredient in Imprelis Herbicide) were found in the samples referenced in item #4:

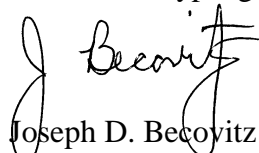
- a) Injured spruce foliage

PPB=Parts Per Billion

83 PPB

BDL=Below Detection Limits

7. According to the application information collected from the applicator, Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on May 2, 2011, at the rate of 4.5 oz /acre using hose and reel type, ground application equipment.



Joseph D. Becovitz  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: October 13, 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 31, 2011