

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1131

**Complainant:** Scott & Sue Webber  
1025 Laurelwood  
Carmel, IN 46032  
317-844-1899

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

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On July 14, 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) Dieback of spruce tree (see figure #1).
  - b) 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, *"There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the spruce sample submitted. The sample exhibited brown needles at the tips of the branches and some needle drop. This type of discoloration and needle drop can be caused by a number of different site, environmental and other root stress related factors. I saw no specific distortion associated with the needles, however, I did note some distortion of buds."*

*Symptoms of distortion can 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 June 9, 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