

CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1146

Complainant: Don Glenn
3814 Edgewater Court
Marion, IN 46953
765-674-3794

Applicator: Joe Chandler
Grant County Lawn Inc.
PO Box 1595
Marion, IN 46952
765-384-5219

Registered Technician
Licensed Business

1. On July 11, 2011, I, Agent Beth Carter 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. A Notice of Inspection was issued to Don Glenn. I observed the following on yews during my on-site investigation:
 - a) Yellowing and browning of the needles (see figure 1).
 - b) Distorting and curling of the needle tips (see figure 2).
 - c) Branch dieback (see figure 3).
2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

3. I collected a vegetation sample from a visibly impacted yew for examination by the Purdue Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL).
4. I collected the following environmental sample for chemical analysis by the OISC Residue Laboratory:
 - a) Vegetation sample (yew)
 - b) Soil from lawn (composite)

NOTE: A decision was made by OISC management to not analyze the environmental samples in this case. That decision was based on: 1) the large number of similar environmental samples already analyzed that had produced representative results consistent with the presence of visible exposure symptoms; 2) the expertise developed by OISC investigators through repetition to identify Imprelis exposure symptoms without chemical confirmation; and 3) the large number of similar cases being investigated by OISC at the same time.

5. The report from the PPDL stated: *"There was no evidence of insects or disease on the sample submitted.*

The sample (and pictures) submitted show twisting and tip dieback; 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."


6. According to the application information collected from Grant County Lawn, Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on April 18 and June 13, 2011, at a rate of 4.5 fluid ounces per acre with a hose and reel type sprayer.


Elizabeth C. Carter

Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 27, 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