

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1254

**Complainant:** Kathy Helton  
6572 Hunters Ridge South  
Zionsville, IN 46077  
317-344-2604

**Applicator:** Jason Frazee  
Tru Green  
11775 Technology Drive  
Fishers, IN 46038  
317-570-2300

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On July 22, 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. It was reported that Tru Green, the complainant's lawn care company, had not used Imprelis on the turf. However, the Tru Green technician suspected the symptoms on the trees were the result of an Imprelis application, (possibly to a neighbor's yard). A Notice of Inspection was issued to Mrs. Kathy Helton. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
  - a) There were six spruce trees on the south side of the Helton property. One spruce tree had browning and some curling at the very top (leader branch). The other five spruce trees appeared healthy. (See Figure 1, 2 & 3.)
  - b) There were approximately 12 pines on the west side of the property. I observed on a few trees some very slight browning of the needles throughout the branch. Browning was not centralized at the growing point. (See Figure 4, 5 & 6.)
2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

3. I collected the following vegetation sample from visibly impacted non-target vegetation as described in paragraph #1 for examination by the Purdue Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL).

- a) *Spruce*
- b) *Pine*

4. The PPDL report stated the following:

***Preliminary Report:***

*No evidence of mite damage or an infectious disease was observed on the white pine or spruce samples submitted.*

*Twisted needles were observed on several clusters of the white pine branch submitted. This type of injury can be found associated with exposure to a growth-regulator-type herbicide. I have forwarded the spruce sample to Cliff Sadof, Entomology, for his appraisal of potential insect damage to the top of the tree.*

*--G. Ruhl; Plant Disease Diagnostician*

***Final Report***

*7-25-11*

*The terminal was killed by white pine weevil, *Pissodes* spp.. Though the common name is “white pine weevil”, the insect infests the terminals of many conifers including white, blue and Norway spruce, jack and Scots pine, and on occasion red pine. The presence of white chip bark cocoons is clear evidence of borer presence. The larval stages of this weevil feed inside the previous years terminal, eventually causing enough damage to girdle the shoot and kill the newly expanding terminal growth at the very top of the tree. White pine weevils are not tree killers, rather they cause trees to become deformed, crooked, and multi-stemmed. This becomes an issue if trees are grown for high quality wood products. This weevil is now in the cocoon stage and will be there through the end of July. Given the intense heat lately, their emergence as adults could be sooner. The best control is to prune out infested tips and burn the tips before adults emerge and begin feeding on bark during the summer. Failure to do so will allow beetles to colonize new tips and other trees next spring. See page 3 of our bulletin E-256 (attached) for a more detailed account of the biology. <http://www.extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-256.pdf>*

*If you have additional questions pertaining to management please feel free to contact me at, [csadof@purdue.edu](mailto:csadof@purdue.edu) (765) 494-5983.*

*--G. Ruhl; Plant Disease Diagnostician*

5. Based on the PPDL report and the fact that no Imprelis was applied to the Helton property or either of the two neighbor's property, it is my conclusion that the symptoms should be attributed to environmental stress and not Imprelis.



Elizabeth C. Carter  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 8, 2011

**Disposition:** No violation of the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law was documented at this time.



George N. Saxton  
Compliance Officer

Final Date: September 14, 2011