

CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1271

Complainant: Mark Uselman
529 W. Sycamore Lane
Clinton, IN 47842
(765) 832-3362

Applicator: Tom Bekkering
Tommy Boys Lawn Care
631 Blackman St.
Clinton, IN 47842
(812) 208-7626

Licensed Applicator
Licensed Business

1. On July 21, 2011, I, Agent Matt Pearson 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 and shrubs possibly resulting from exposure to the herbicide Imprelis. A Notice of Inspection was issued to Mark Uselman. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
 - a) Tops of trees were curled (see figure #1).
 - b) Browning of needles throughout tree (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 and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL).

- a) *Spruce*

4. According to a report from the PPDL, *"The sample and pictures submitted showed extensive dieback of several branches. The vigor of last year's growth suggests this is probably not related to drought stress from last year.*

There were few symptoms of twisting and branch or needle distortion but herbicide injury can't be ruled out since the extensive dieback has been 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."

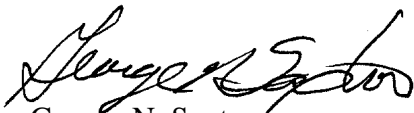
5. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on 4/29/2011, at the rate of 4.3 oz/acre using a Z sprayer; no application was made to the soil within the drip line of any of the trees or ornamentals; no application was made directly to any exposed roots of any trees or ornamentals.



Matthew E. Pearson
Engineering Specialist

Date: October 17, 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 10, 2011