

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1338

**Complainant:** Ruth Staggs  
839 E. South D Street  
Gas City, IN 46933

**Applicator:** Joe Chandler  
Grant County Lawn Care  
707 N. Miller Avenue  
Marion, IN 46952  
765-384-5219

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On July 27, 2011, I, Agent Andy Roth of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), performed an investigation at the property listed above in response to a claim of injury/damage to non-target trees possibly resulting from exposure to Imprelis Herbicide. During my on-site investigation, I observed twisted tips and brown needles on a white pine (Figures 1-3) and discolored needles on new growth on mature spruces on a neighboring property to the north (Figure 4).

2. I photographed the site documenting the symptoms I observed:



Figure 1



Figure 2




Figure 3




Figure 4

3. I collected a plant sample from the white pine exhibiting symptoms in the front yard and submitted it to the Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) at Purdue for assessment.
4. The report from the PPDL for the sample submitted indicates, *"There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the sample submitted. The sample (and pictures) submitted show 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. When injury results in new shoot dieback in conifers there will be no regrowth this season, and with certain species, such as Norway spruce, the entire tree can die."*
5. According to application information collected from Grant County Lawn Care, Joe Chandler applied Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) to the lawn on April 12 and on June 9, 2011, at the rate of 4.5 oz /acre using hose-end application equipment.

  
Andrew R. Roth  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: October 3, 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 20, 2011