

## CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1358

**Complainant:** Judith Davis  
26215 Heatherfield Drive  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514  
574-266-4241

**Applicator:** Brian Lattimer  
Lattimer Lawn Care  
51363 CR 3  
Elkhart, Indiana 46514  
574-262-5051

Licensed Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On August 3, 2011, I, Agent Kevin Gibson 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 Judith Davis. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
  - a) Tips curled at top of white pine tree (see figure #1).
  - b) Close-up of tomato plant (see figure #2).
  - c) Close-up of spruce tips
  - d) Spruce tree
2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:



Figure #1



Figure #2



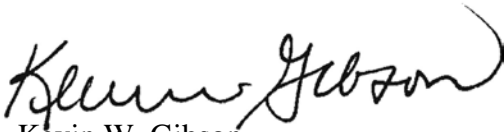
Figure #3



Figure #4

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) *White Pine*
  - b) *Tomato Plant*
  - c) *Spruce*

4. According to a report from the PPDL, *“The tomato sample showed distinct strap-like distortion of leaves, similar to that seen with growth regulator type herbicides. Spruce and white pine exhibited distortion and dieback. There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the sample submitted. The sample (and pictures) submitted show dieback of robust new growth, twisting and distortion of branch tips and needles. Typical 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 re-growth this season, and with certain species, such as Norway spruce, the entire tree can die*
5. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on May 2, 2011, at the rate of 2.8 oz per/acre using ride on 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.



Kevin W. Gibson  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 20, 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 17, 2011