

# CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1363

**Complainant:** West Park HOA  
12822 Fleetwood Drive South  
Carmel, IN 46032

**Applicator:** Bob Andrews  
The Greenskeeper, Inc.  
1051 Summit Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032  
317-846-7131

Certified Applicator  
Licensed Business

1. On August 26, 2011, I, Agent Joe Becovitz of the Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC), performed an investigation at West Park Subdivision in response to a claim of injury/damage to non-target trees and shrubs possibly resulting from exposure to the herbicide Imprelis. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
  - a) Several spruce trees at the site had new growth that was browned and twisted and the trees appeared to be defoliating by losing their newest needles first. A few of the spruce trees at the site were completely defoliated at the time of my inspection while others were defoliated only at their tops (see Figures 1 thru 4).
2. I photographed the site documenting the symptoms I observed:



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



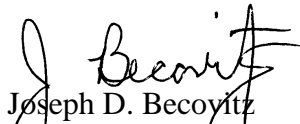
Figure 4

3. I collected the following vegetation samples from visibly impacted non-target vegetation, as described in paragraph #1, for examination by the Plant & Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) at Purdue:

a) Spruce


The report from the PPDL for the samples submitted indicates, *"There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the sample submitted. The pictures submitted show symptoms that may be 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 color, 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."*

4. According to the application information collected from the applicator, Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on May 20, 2011, at the rate of 4.5 oz /acre using ride-on type, ground application equipment.

  
Joseph D. Becovitz  
Pesticide Investigator

Date: September 15, 2011

**Disposition:** No violation of the Indiana Pesticide Use and Application Law was documented against the pesticide applicator. On August 12, 2011, a letter was sent to E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company, Inc. proposing cancellation of the registration for Imprelis Herbicide, EPA Reg. #352-793, for distributing a pesticide product with label directions that are inadequate to prevent unreasonable adverse effects to non-target vegetation.

  
George N. Saxton  
Compliance Officer

Final Date: September 15, 2011