CASE SUMMARY

Case #2011/1451

Complainant: Sally Wirhwein
4900 Wintergreen Lane
Carmel, IN 46033
317 – 848 – 9864

Applicator: Royal Fleming — Licensed Applicator
The Greenskeeper Inc. — Licensed Business
1051 Summit Drive
Carmel, IN 46032
317 – 846 – 7131

1. On August 16, 2011 I, Agent Trish Waller 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 Ms. Sally Wirhwein. I observed the following during my on-site investigation:
    a) Tops of trees were curled (See Figure #1 and #5).
    b) Spiraling of dead areas (See Figure #5).
    c) Browning of needles (See Figure #2, #3, #4, #5, and #8).

2. I took the following photos depicting injured/damaged vegetation:

Figure #1

Figure #2

Figure #3

Figure #4

Figure #5

Figure #6

Figure #7

Figure #8

3. I collected the following vegetation samples from visibly impacted non-target vegetation for examination by the Purdue Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (PPDL).
    a) Pine
    b) Spruce
    c) Fir

4. According to a report from the PPDL, "*There was no evidence of significant mite or insect injury or disease on the spruce samples submitted. Two fungal diseases, Diplodia (Sphaeropsis) Tip Blight and Dothistroma Needle Blight were confirmed on the sample of Austrian Pine. Diplodia Tip Blight can cause dieback and distortion of shoot tips on Austrian pine. Our PPDL diagnosis of the possibility of potential damage from herbicide injury is based on visual assessment of samples and images submitted and whether the symptoms observed on non-target plants are typical of injury that could be caused by exposure or uptake of the herbicides purportedly applied to the area. The samples and pictures submitted show symptoms (distorted needles and buds) of injury that can be 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; dieback of shoot tips; 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."

5. According to the application information collected from the applicator Imprelis Herbicide (EPA Reg. No. 352-793) was applied on April 14, 2011 at the rate of 4.5 oz/acre using z sprayer 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.

Trish Waller
Pesticide Investigator

Date: October 4, 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 25, 2011