



Office of
INDIANA STATE CHEMIST AND SEED COMMISSIONER

Protecting Indiana's Agriculture and Environment - Feed, Fertilizer, Pesticide and Seed

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July 22, 2011

Imprelis Herbicide Injury to Landscape Trees and Ornamentals

Who is making this announcement?

The Office of the Indiana State Chemist (OISC) is the pesticide regulatory agency for the State of Indiana. As such OISC is responsible for registering pesticide products, including herbicides, for sale and/or use in Indiana. OISC is also responsible for licensing pesticide application businesses, including lawn and landscape companies who use pesticides.

Why is OISC providing this information?

Recently OISC has been made aware of complaints from licensed lawn and landscape professionals and their customers regarding unexpected injury to landscape trees and ornamentals. The reported plant injury has been primarily observed on properties where a newly registered turf herbicide **Imprelis** has been applied. As a result, a number of related questions have been raised as OISC has been investigating these complaints.

What is Imprelis Herbicide?

Imprelis (active ingredient aminocyclopyrachlor) is intended to control a variety of unwanted broadleaf weeds in lawns, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, athletic fields and sod farms. It is registered by pesticide manufacturer DuPont. Reported use of Imprelis in Indiana occurred primarily in March-June of 2011.

Will Imprelis Herbicide harm me, my children, or my pets?

Imprelis was registered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and then subsequently by OISC in the last quarter of 2010. One of the attractive features of Imprelis that figured into the registration approval by US EPA was its relatively low toxicity to humans, pets, and wildlife. OISC has seen no data to suggest that this product should be harmful to people or pets.

How is OISC responding to these plant injury complaints?

OISC investigated the first Imprelis complaint in early June, 2011. The OISC field staff of six plus investigators has been focusing primarily on Imprelis complaint response since that time. An estimated 150 investigations have been initiated to date. The purpose of each investigation is to: 1) determine if the licensed applicator applied the herbicide correctly, according to the product label directions; and 2) determine if the reported injury is directly related to Imprelis.

What should I expect if and when OISC conducts an investigation into my complaint?

OISC investigations could include the collection of such evidence as photographs, application records, injured plant tissue for visual examination, injured plant tissue and soil samples for chemical analysis, and statements from witnesses. Not all investigations will require the collection of each of these pieces of evidence.

When will the results of the investigation be available?

Credible investigations take time to process. This is compounded by the large number of complaints being investigated in a relatively short period of time. OISC investigators are making it a priority to get to the site of the reported complaints as quickly as possible for evidence collection. As a result, the processing of complaints already investigated will be slowed somewhat. However, OISC is aware of the heightened interest by both consumers and licensed applicators and is working diligently to expedite results wherever possible.

How will I be notified of OISC's investigation findings?

Upon completion of the investigation, both the property owner(s) and the licensed applicator/business will be direct mailed a copy of the investigation report. The report will include a listing of the applicable evidence to support the findings and any enforcement or disposition in the case. Specifically OISC will address: 1) whether the applicator complied with the Imprelis label use directions; and 2) whether Imprelis could be linked to any injury observed or documented by OISC.

What should I do while I am waiting on the investigation results?

Continue to monitor the plant injury to see if it worsens or improves. Documentation of any changes over time with photographs might be helpful. Continue to communicate with your lawn care professional and your impacted customers for updates. If DuPont wants to visit the impacted properties, encourage them to do so.

What if I have additional questions about the investigation?

Based on the volume of complaints being investigated and processed, OISC is not going to be able to provide a reasonable status report on individual cases. In addition, legal requirements of due process for anyone involved with an investigation will prevent OISC from speaking publicly about a case before it is concluded. However, if there are general updates or developments that can be shared by OISC they will be made available on the OISC web site at www.isco.purdue.edu. Just click on "Pesticides" and then look under "News Alerts".

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