



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

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Governor

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Commissioner

Pesticide Control Program
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March 31, 2004

Dear Turf Applicator:

In Washington, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and California, residues of the active pesticide ingredient "clopyralid" have been detected in compost that includes grass clippings as a source. This is the result of the use of herbicide products containing this active ingredient on lawns and other turf areas where the clippings have been collected for compost. This herbicide is produced by Dow Agrosciences and is sold under at least 38 different trade names in New Jersey (see attached list) such as Stinger®, Confront® and Millenium®. It is used to control broadleaf weeds in lawns, and various kinds of brush and weeds in rangeland, pastures, non-cropland and rights-of-way.

Mulch or compost made from grass clippings treated with clopyralid retains enough of the herbicide to damage sensitive plants in areas where the mulch or compost is used. The compost can stunt tomato, clover, lettuce, pea, lentil, sunflower, pepper and bean plants at levels as low as 10 parts per billion. Clopyralid residues at levels well above those capable of injuring plants have been detected in grass clippings and compost made from those clippings.

Thus far, the federal EPA and Dow have addressed the issue through changes in the label for products containing clopyralid. That re-labeling states:

“Do not use grass clippings from turf treated with ...(name of product)... for mulch.”
and

“Do not use compost containing grass clippings from turf treated with ...(name of product)... in the growing season of application.”

This has put the burden on pesticide applicators to ensure that these clippings are not used for compost. It also puts a burden on composting facilities, farmers and others who recycle organic materials to be sure that they do not accept grass clippings that contain residues of clopyralid, a difficult task.

What can you do?

First, check the attached list to see if you are applying any of these products containing clopyralid to grass/turf.

Second, verbally warn your customers not to use their grass clippings for mulch or compost or allow their grass clippings to be picked up by any municipal composting facility. This warning must also appear on the Consumer Information Notice that you are required to provide to your customers.

Third, if you know that the customer uses grass clippings for mulch or compost, or the customer lives in a town which picks up the grass clippings as part of a recycling or composting effort, consider using alternative products on that location. Remember that label directions forbidding the use of clopyralid-containing products on turf or grass used for mulch/composting are ultimately the responsibility of the pesticide applicator.

Thank you for your cooperation. For questions concerning this issue, please call David Munn of the Pesticide Control Program at (609) 984-6510.

Sincerely,
Pesticide Control Program
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Clopyralid Products in NJ (36)

By Name

Accent Gold Herbicide	352-593
Battleship Herbicide	228-371-5905
Chaser Ultra	228-372-65783
Chaser Ultra Weed & Feed	228-376-65783
Confront Specialty Herbicide	62719-92
DuPont Accent Gold WDG Herbicide	352-612
Greenview Fairway Formula Spring Fert. 24-2-8 Weed & Feed and Crabgrass Preventer	961-390
Greenview Preen 'N Green Lawns 28-2-5	961-390
Hornet Broadleaf Blend Herbicide	62719-253
Hornet WDG Broadleaf Blend Herbicide	62719-315
Lebanon Proscape Fertilizer with 0.68% Confront and 1.25% Team 19-3-9	961-391
Lebanon Proscape Homogeneous Fertilizer with Confront Herbicide	62719-262-961
Lebanon Proscape Homogeneous Fertilizer with Confront Herbicide 0-0-15	62719-262-961
Lebanon Proscape Homogeneous Fertilizer with Confront Herbicide 17-2-17	62719-262-961
Lesco Momentum Premium Selective Herbicide	228-321-10404
Lesco Momentum Premium Weed & Feed 0-0-7	228-340-10404
Lesco Momentum Premium Weed & Feed 21-0-12	228-340-10404
Lontrel Turf & Ornamental Herbicide	62719-305
Professional Turf Products 16-4-8 with Millenium Ultra Herbicide & PCSCU	228-343-9198
Professional Turf Products 20-3-10 with Millenium Ultra Herbicide	228-343-9198
Professional Turf Products 22-3-4 with Millenium Ultra	228-343-9198
Riverdale Millenium Ultra Selective Herbicide	228-322
Riverdale Millenium Ultra Plus Selective Herbicide	228-382
Riverdale Trupower Selective Herbicide	228-323
Shaw's Turf Food Broadleaf Weed Control 970/Millenium Ultra 15-2-5	228-376-8378
Shaw's Turf Food Broadleaf Weed Control 970/Millenium Ultra 22-3-4	228-376-8378
Stinger Herbicide	62719-73
Stinger Herbicide	SLN-NJ-030002
Stinger Herbicide	SLN-NJ-030003
Tee Time 18-5-9 with Millenium Ultra Herbicide	228-343-9198
Terre Weed 'N Feed 20-3-10	228-343-9198
Terre Weed 'N Feed 20-3-10	228-343-32802
Transline Specialty Herbicide	62719-259
Weed & Feed 12-0-24 with Millenium Ultra	228-343-9198
Weed & Feed with Millenium Ultra 15-3-5	228-343-32802
Weed & Feed with Millenium Ultra HJE 20-0-5	228-376-32802