



February 21, 2012

To: All Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Operators
All Licensed Compost Facility Operators

From: Ann M. Coakley, Director *AMC*
Waste and Materials Management Bureau

Subject: Trees and Yard Materials Affected by DuPont's Imprelis® Herbicide

Last year DuPont voluntarily suspended the sale of Imprelis® turfgrass herbicide after reports of unintended damage to certain species of evergreen trees, particularly Norway Spruce and white pine. Imprelis® is an herbicide created for professional use on lawns and golf courses and was only available to licensed applicators; it was not sold over the counter to individual consumers.

There is evidence that Imprelis® may persist through composting and that compost and mulch containing Imprelis®-affected trees, grass, and other yard materials may adversely affect plants where the compost or mulch is used. DuPont has stated that clippings from grass treated with Imprelis® and trees that may have been injured by Imprelis® should not be composted. Therefore we believe there is a short-term need for an alternative option for disposing of trees and plant material that may contain residues of Imprelis®.

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Natural Resources will allow the landfill disposal of trees and plant material affected by Imprelis® during 2012. This is a temporary, limited exception to our enforcement of the yard material landfill ban in s. 287.07(2), Wis. Stats. Materials not affected by Imprelis® remain subject to the ban.

For operators of licensed municipal solid waste landfills, this means you may accept loads of wood chips or other plant material from customers who state that the material cannot be composted or used as mulch because it is contaminated with Imprelis®. This statement does not need to be in writing. We ask that, to the extent possible, you beneficially use the material in cover applications, consistent with the intent of the statutory yard material ban. We also ask that you maintain tonnage records of any material you receive under this exception.

For operators of licensed compost facilities, you should be aware of the potential for materials containing Imprelis® residues to adversely affect the quality of compost or mulch. We recommend that you establish a procedure to inquire about incoming materials or provide relevant signage at drop-off points.

We believe this will prove to be a temporary problem. We expect to revisit this limited exception to the landfill ban in approximately one year, and may extend, modify or discontinue the exception at that time.

More information on Imprelis® is available at DuPont's website: <http://www.imprelis-facts.com/>

Additional information is available from the US Environmental Protection Agency at:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/imprelis.html>

Please do not hesitate to contact Brad Wolbert (Brad.Wolbert@wisconsin.gov, 608-264-6286) if you have any questions about this letter. Thank you for your assistance in managing this environmental issue.