

## **Recommended Preliminary Steps to Property Owners to Preserve Evidence of Imprelis™-Related Injury**

As of now, diagnosis of Imprelis™-related injury is based primarily on showing that, following a documented application of Imprelis™, trees developed symptoms such as browning and curling at the ends and top of branches or total death of the tree. Generally, that occurs approximately three to four weeks following an application.

To preserve evidence: (1) document the injuries to your trees; (2) document the history of Imprelis™ application; (3) preserve soil and foliage samples; and, if you are removing any trees, (4) document the species, size, and function of those trees.

### **Document the Injuries to Your Trees**

Document injuries with dated photographs of the entire tree or trees, as well as close-up images of the injured branches. This should allow you to capture both the overall scope of injury and the signature symptom expression.

When taking photographs of affected trees:

- Try to position the sun behind you. This will help ensure there is sufficient detail in your photos of the injuries. Photographs taken with the sun directly in front of you, on the other hand, are less likely to be helpful.
- Start with one or two location photographs, such as a street sign and house number. On commercial properties, photograph the property sign (for example, “Lovely Lake Condominium”).
- On commercial properties, start each group of photos with an object that identifies the approximate location on your property where the photograph was taken, such as a tee.
- If more than one tree on your property is injured, assign each injured tree a number prior to photographing it. Then, prior to photographing the tree, photograph the assigned number. This could be something as simple as a number written on a small piece of paper.
- Take at least one photograph of each tree in a way that shows scale (for example, you could photograph a person standing next to the tree holding a broom or yardstick).
- Take additional photos over time if, and as, symptoms change.

### **Document the Application of Imprelis™**

Document the history of Imprelis™ application with records showing when Imprelis™ was applied. To the extent possible, you should also document the concentration of the mixture and where it was applied in reference to the injured tree or trees. You will need to obtain copies of these records from your applicator.

### **Preserve Soil and Foliage Samples**

Take multiple soil samples in both the area under the tree and the area known to have been sprayed with Imprelis™. Soil samples should be collected from the top 4” of soil (after your turf or mulch has been removed). You should collect enough soil from each location to fill a zip-lock sandwich baggie and then seal the bag carefully. The samples should be labeled with the date and the location where the soil was taken, and stored in a freezer.

You should also try to collect samples of injured foliage. Ideally, you will be able to collect enough foliage from each tree to fill about half of a gallon zip-lock freezer bag. Again, carefully seal and label the bags with the date and location, and store in a freezer.

### **Document the Species, Size, and Function of Any Trees that You Must Remove**

- Record the species of the tree. If you don't know this, keep a twig and some leaves from the tree and save in a freezer bag to assist in identifying the species.
- If possible, measure the diameter of the tree at 6 inches, 12 inches, and 4½ feet above the ground. Accurate measurement is provided by a caliper, which your landscaper or arborist may have. If your tree has already been removed and the stump remains, measure the diameter of the stump at the cut and height of the cut (which might be at ground level). Photograph the stump with a ruler across the stump to show diameter. Record any measurements.
- Measure the height of the tree. If you are unable to do this, be careful to take a photograph of the entire tree with someone standing next to it holding an object such as a broom or yardstick. More accurate measurement is provided by a device known as a clinometer, which your landscaper or arborist may have.
- For each tree, describe any particular role it played in enhancing the use and enjoyment of your property. In particular, note any screening, shading, privacy, noise abatement, erosion control, wind control, sun control, and temperature reduction.
- Document the exact location of each tree in reference to a fixed object (such as a lamp post or tee). You may wish to circle a picture of each tree on an areal photograph from a service such as Google™ or Bing™.