



July 13, 2020

Subject: Soil/Compost and Clopyralid Issues – Pesticide Use Investigations #200405, #200408, and #200481

You are receiving this message because you have expressed interest in receiving updates or are a part of the current pesticide investigations related to clopyralid in soil/compost including the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s (ODA) Pesticide Investigations # 200405 (Dean Innovations) and # 200408 (McFarlane's). Additionally, ODA has received, and is responding to additional concerns of contaminated soil purchased from other distributors in the greater Portland area. We will update the website and affected individuals as sample results come in.

As part of ODA’s commitment in keeping you informed, the following information has been updated on ODA’s [Current Issues webpage](#) under the new title: [Soil/Compost and Clopyralid Investigations](#) (scroll down until you find the Investigation updates section). The title has been modified to be inclusive of all ongoing investigations into soil/compost and clopyralid concerns for multiple distributors.

Lab Results

- When reviewing lab results, remember that a result of <0.010 ppm does not mean clopyralid is not present, it only tells us that the lab cannot measure it below that limit. Conducting a bioassay is the most effective way to determine the presence of clopyralid in your soil.
- ODA collected additional plant tissue samples from customer residences for ODA Pesticide Case # 200405. Summary results showed four (4) of the seven (7) samples taken confirmed the presence of clopyralid.
- On June 15, 2020, ODA collected soil samples for two products at McFarlane’s (# 200408) place of business: Scottish blend and Compostuff. Both samples collected found that they did not have any of the 4 active ingredients above the method reporting limits.
- On June 26 & 30, 2020, ODA collected samples of mushroom compost distributed by Best Buy in Town. On Friday, July 10, 2020, ODA received the results that confirmed the presence of clopyralid.

ODA has collected enough samples as part of its investigative process into the Dean Innovations and McFarlane’s cases. If you have concerns about additional soil and compost distributors, please reach out to ODA by email at contaminatedsoilquestions@oda.state.or.us. You may be asked to submit photos as part of the investigative process.

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Current Investigation Status:

- ODA Pesticide Case #200405 - ODA is narrowing its search of suppliers and continues to work with Dean Innovations and their suppliers to identify the source of contamination.
- ODA Pesticide Case #200408 - ODA is continuing to look into any potential sources of the contaminant.
- ODA's Fertilizer Program continues to work with Dean Innovations and McFarlane's to complete registration of products they have in the marketplace.
- ODA Pesticide Case #20048 - On June 19, 2020 ODA initiated a new investigation for Best Buy in Town after reports of similar plant observations were reported.

Additional Resources - ODA has new information to the website to help with soil contamination questions including:

- [Photos of plants affected by clorpyralid](#)
- The Pesticide Advisory - Clorpyralid in Compost/Manures notice was broadcast out to pesticide applicators & dealers, and the Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) listserv.
- Updated Soil FAQ to include additional articles
 - [OSU Extension - Herbicide carryover in hay, manure, compost and grass clippings](#)
 - North Carolina Extension - <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/herbicide-carryover>
 - Improving Garden Soils with Organic Matter: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1561>
 - Soil Test Interpretation Guide: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1478>
 - Fertilizing Your Garden: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1503>
 - [OSU Extension - Raised Bed Gardening](#)

ODA continues to have ongoing, regular communications with partners agencies to discuss this issue and provide you with the best resources at they become available.

If you have any questions about the update or resources provided, please send an email to contaminatedsoilquestions@oda.state.or.us

ODA will continue to provide periodic updates of the status of the investigations to interested parties. Information about the ODA Pesticides Program may be found at the following web site.

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Pages/PesticidesCurrentIssues.aspx>