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**From:** Christopher A. Turmelle [mailto:[chris@atlanticpestsolutions.net](mailto:chris@atlanticpestsolutions.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2009 11:09 AM  
**To:** Jennings, Henry  
**Cc:** [jobrien@downeastturf.com](mailto:jobrien@downeastturf.com); Ralph; Ted; Chris Heath  
**Subject:** Comments to the board regarding spot treatments

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Henry,  
I would like to submit my comments regarding the latest issue of spot treatments for the upcoming board meeting in on August 28<sup>th</sup>. I would appreciate and welcome any feedback from you. I had a recent conversation about this with Gary Fish and I hope you will share my thoughts with him in the meanwhile also. I will most likely see you at the next meeting and I hope to spark some industry interest in this process as well. I, as a member of a regulated industry, would like very much to be involved in the solution to this dilemma and hope to get some organization started in Maine (eventually) to better represent the lawn care industry so we can work more closely with the board toward the betterment of the industry and protect the resources of The State of Maine together. Please respond to this email to let me know that you were able to open the file I attached without problem. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Chris Turmelle**  
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July 24, 2009

Board of Pesticides Control  
28 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04330-0028

Dear Board Members and Staff,

As a master commercial applicator whose primary career focus has been on turf, I am highly interested in your desire to seek a definition of a "spot treatment" as it relates to recent revisions of Chapter 29 of the Board's regulations. I would like to offer to the board, for consideration, my professional perspectives, opinions, and comments concerning this topic.

Prior to the July 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting, I found the item of a definition of a "spot treatment" posted on the agenda. Although I was unable to attend, I spoke with Gary Fish of the BPC staff regarding the direction this issue is likely to take. I feel, and Mr. Fish stated that he expected this to be the case, that a definition of this nature would exceed the limits of a simple matter of policy but rather a revision requiring legislative review. I strongly encourage the board to actively seek the input of all regulated parties as well as with other interested groups to form a working definition allows reasonable applications to continue to be made in the regulated areas.

There are many waterfront properties in Maine that have lawn areas either directly adjacent to the water's edge or having a minimal buffer along the water's edge but well under the 25-foot buffer zone dictated in Chapter 29. Many of these property owners are unwilling to spend additional monies to re-landscape these areas or a small strip of lawn is the only separation between the water and a camp. We cannot, in these cases, ignore the maintenance of these areas entirely as we may face the unintended consequence of shore erosion and water pollution.

Professionally, I have looked for low-impact methods of maintaining these lawn areas. I feel that the particular method of application, formulation of product, and volume of mixture should be considered in what is acceptable defining "spot treatments in buffer zones". Defining a spot treatment by a volume or percentage of the buffer zone area treated alone would not be good policy. Consider, for example, a spot treatment for weeds to be made in a buffer zone on a lake's shoreline where the lawn goes to the water's edge. Using a granular weed product would be out of the question. Using a powered sprayer may be acceptable up to a certain percentage of lawn area while still leaving a smaller untreated buffer zone along the shoreline (I suggest a mandatory minimum of 5 feet). A lower volume application made with hand pressurized backpack or similar type sprayer using one gallon or less of spray mixture per thousand square feet would be the best all around choice in this situation. A low volume, foliar application made under favorable weather

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conditions (low wind, dry conditions) would certainly have the least risk for negative environmental impact and should be allowed to cover a greater percentage of lawn area than a higher volume application made with a powered sprayer. Other similar cases may be made for lower risk methods and product choices in applications of insecticides or fungicides.

I again wish to convey my hope that with the cooperation of regulated parties, the public, and other interested organizations, the board can define the spot treatment in such a way as to allow reasonable applications to be made to maintain these buffer zone areas where terrestrial broadcast applications cannot be made. I urge you to consider that in certain cases, cosmetic pesticide applications made in these buffer zones serve a good purpose: to keep up an existing landscape or lawn that does protect the water from soil erosion and leaching of contaminants. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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