

NOV 21 2013

November 19th, 2013

State of Maine
Dept of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 043330028

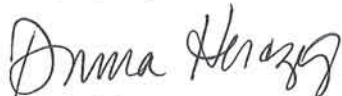
Re: Complaint-Trugreen

Dear Henry Jennings, Director

This letter is a formal request to have the attached set of concerns placed on the Board of Pesticides agenda for review. As I would like to be present at that meeting, please notify me as soon as possible the date.

I have also included pictures of Sterling's Pesticide Application signage which I would like to present at this meeting. From the street the sign just looks like marketing signage and on the back is the pesticide caution sign. From the street there is no way to know that pesticides have been applied and from the back it is so small you can barely read the dates.

Thank you,



Donna Herczeg
173 Longfellow St.
Portland, ME 04103

207-879-6366
donnaph@maine.rr.com

Donna Herczeg

From: Donna Herczeg <donnaph@maine.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 9:57 AM
To: 'raymond.g.connors@maine.gov'
Subject: Trugreen Complaint

Hi Raymond,

I am writing to you today to let you know about a conversation I had on September 12th with Anthony Terramagra, the Westbrook Service Manager at Trugreen.

As a neighbor who was called because I am on the Pesticide Information Registry, I wanted to know what was being sprayed that day and also discuss the weather conditions that were calling for heavy rainfall. This is what he told me after I requested the Material Data Sheet:

- 1) You can't go by what the MDS sheet says because that is the concentrated amount. After dilution "the sprays are less harmful than Windex".
- 2) He also said "the sprayed areas are safe to walk on after 2 hours and that he allows his children, dogs and cats to walk on the sprayed areas and they have never had an allergic reaction".
- 3) After my concerns about heavy rainfall being predicted the same day as spraying he said "only granular products leach from water penetration and that liquid sprays will not after 1 hour of application".
- 4) Said OSHA and the EPA have certified these products as safe.
- 5) Also informed me that after our discussion he called the Maine Board and spoke to Jan who said he was correct and that he could spray that day and that "they know who I am".
- 6) He also said I had better watch it or I would be facing litigation from my neighbors for harassment.

This same company told another neighbor that their products were organic and she asked that question every time they sprayed. It was not until I got the MDS sheets and showed her that she realized toxic chemicals were being sprayed on her lawn and discontinued the service.

Trugreen's marketing brochures states they are an "environmentally responsible lawn care" company, when in fact they are using toxic herbicides and pesticides. Their "Earthcare Program" states they use "organic-based" fertilizer treatments (a dubious claim at best), including pre and post crabgrass control, broadleaf weed control, and surface insect control, making it look like these products are environmentally safe as well. Even the front of one of these brochures says that dandelion's are a "harmful weed to a healthy lawn".

As a member of Beyond Pesticides and having personally done extensive research on lawn chemicals, I am extremely frustrated and concerned about the blatant disregard of the dangers these chemicals pose and the misleading negligent information this company is providing. These chemicals are proven to be toxic to wildlife, children and pets and are a major threat to aquatic wildlife and waterways.

I appreciate your help in this matter and hope you will take this letter seriously and investigate the claims that are being made by this company and employees.

Donna Herczeg
173 Longfellow St.
Portland 879-6366

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