



How to Report Mosquito Spray Drift

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), Bureau of Plant Industry regulates pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.), pesticide applications, and pesticide applicators. If you believe that a pesticide has drifted and adversely affected plants on your property and you want to initiate an investigation, please don't wait to call PDA!

If you can, take photos or videos, note the day and time, wind speed and direction, as well as the name of the company.

Many pesticides are odorless and invisible. Some pesticides break down quickly in sunlight or are metabolized rapidly by vegetation. The sooner PDA can collect samples after the pesticide application, the better the chances to find the pesticide through laboratory analysis.

Please report every episode of drift. To report a pesticide drift incident, contact your Regional PDA Office. Contact information for our region: agriculture.pa.gov/regional-offices/Pages/Region-7.aspx Emily Fricke, coordinator: emfricke@pa.gov Phone: 717-908-6351.

Or contact your local Penn State Extension office for additional help. Steps of a typical pesticide investigation process to determine if drift has occurred: A complaint is filed with PDA.

- 🌿 An inspector will contact the complainant to gather facts about the incident.
- 🌿 The inspector may take environmental samples and send them to the PDA lab for pesticide analysis.
- 🌿 The inspector will contact the applicator to do a records inspection.
- 🌿 Regulatory action will be taken against the applicator if pesticide drift can be proved.
- 🌿 The case will be closed once the action is settled, or if no violation is found.

Other things to consider:

- 🌿 Take notes to document the date and growth stage of the affected plants when the symptoms first appeared.
- 🌿 Take good quality (high resolution) photographs of injury symptoms at least weekly until symptoms subside.
- 🌿 Identify area affected; flag both affected and unaffected plants for future reference.