

## Patricia D. Hastings

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**From:** "Patricia D. Hastings" <hastings@njaes.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** "NJinPAS School IPM" <NJinPASschoolIPM@aesop.rutgers.edu>; "NJinPAS Network" <NJinPASNetwork@aesop.rutgers.edu>; <homehort@AESOP.RUTGERS.EDU>; "MAINPAS" <mainpaspartners@aesop.rutgers.edu>; "NJinPAS Advisory Committee" <NJinPASadvisory@aesop.rutgers.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2008 12:54 PM  
**Subject:** EPA Orders Scotts to Stop Selling Certain Pesticides

Article below excerpted from EPA's Pesticide Program Updates from EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs dated 04/23/08. See also EPA Fact Sheet dated April 2008 entitled 'Questions and Answers On Scotts Stop Order- Miracle Gro Pesticide Registration Enforcement Case; Marysville, Ohio; [www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/ScottsQ&AFactSheetv-4-22-08.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/ScottsQ&AFactSheetv-4-22-08.pdf).

Consumers are referred to:

1. An EPA consumer hotline to answer questions about the Scotts stop order action has been established at **888-838-1304**.
2. Questions may also be answered by the National Pesticide Information Center at **800-858-7378** (6:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. PDT, including weekends).
3. More information is posted online at [www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/](http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/).

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### EPA Orders Scotts to Stop Selling Certain Pesticides

EPA is ordering Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. to stop selling and distributing two pesticide products that have not been properly registered with EPA. They may have been sold under names such as "Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food" and "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer with .28 Halts" or other names. These products have apparently been sold illegally, as they have not been registered with EPA and are labeled with invalid EPA registration numbers. Together with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, EPA is analyzing samples of the products to determine their ingredients and will use this information to better determine what additional steps should be taken. If you see the invalid numbers, 62355-4 or 538-304, for lawn and garden products, you have an unregistered product.

For details, see EPA Region V's press release and fact sheet below.

EPA orders Scotts to stop selling certain pesticides (News Release 04/23/08)  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -No. 08-OPA073

(Chicago, Ill. - April 23, 2008) U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 today issued a "stop sale, use or removal" order against Scotts Miracle Gro Co. and three affiliates, all of Marysville, Ohio, for illegal, unregistered and misbranded pesticides. EPA will also issue a stop sale order to Scotts Lawn Care Service.

Scotts has agreed to recall these products from all retail locations across the United States and to set up a process for consumers to safely return any unregistered products they may have purchased.

An EPA consumer hotline to answer questions about the action has been established at 888-838-1304 (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, Central Daylight Time). Questions may also be answered by the National Pesticide Information Center at 800-858-7378 (6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, including weekends). A fact sheet and regularly updated information are posted online at <http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/>

At this time the risks, if any, posed by these unregistered products are unknown. EPA and its state partner Ohio Department of Agriculture are conducting a laboratory analysis of these products. Updated information will be posted online when it becomes available. Until EPA has more information about the contents of these products, consumers are advised not to use these products and to store them in a safe, cool and dry place such as a garage or utility shed. Do not dispose of them down the drain, in the garbage or at a community disposal site.

EPA ordered the companies, collectively an international producer and distributor of lawn care products, to immediately stop selling and distributing two products which can be identified by the invalid "EPA registration number" listed on the package. Invalid registration number 62355-4 is marketed under names including "Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food" and "Miracle Gro Shake 'n' Feed All Purpose Plant Food Plus Weed Preventer." Invalid registration number 538-304 is used primarily by Scotts Lawn Service, a lawn care company. It is marketed under names including "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer with .28% Halts," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 0-0-7 Plus .28% Halts Pro," "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 14-2-5 Plus .28% Halts Pro" and "Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer 22-0-8 Plus .28% Halts Pro."

In an effort to make sure these products are immediately removed from the marketplace, EPA will also issue stop sale orders to major retailers that carry these products.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, all pesticides must be submitted to EPA for review, evaluation and registration to ensure that they do not pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment. EPA's review and registration process is internationally recognized. Pesticide products that have not undergone EPA review may pose risks to human health and the environment.

"A manufacturer such as Scotts cannot ignore the important legal requirement of registering its pesticides," said Region 5 Administrator Mary A. Gade. "This is a serious violation of EPA's system for protecting people and the environment from the potential harmful effects of pesticides. EPA will fully investigate this violation and take appropriate actions. We are committed to keeping the public informed about any health consequences and providing information to assure the safe recall of these products as soon as possible."

Contact Information: Mick Hans, 312-353-5050, [hans.mick@epa.gov](mailto:hans.mick@epa.gov) Karen Thompson, 312-353-8547, [thompson.karen@epa.gov](mailto:thompson.karen@epa.gov) Rafael P. Gonzalez, 312-886-0269, [gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov](mailto:gonzalez.rafaelp@epa.gov)

For more information on pesticides, go to <http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/pest>

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Patricia D. Hastings  
Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator

Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
Cooperative Extension  
Pest Management Office  
93 Lipman Drive  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

p. 732-932-9802  
f. 732-932-9751  
[hastings@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:hastings@njaes.rutgers.edu)  
[www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu](http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu)