

Handling a Drift Complaint

When spray drift occurs, it is important to take the right steps to resolve the complaint. If you suspect that your crop or property has been damaged because of spray drift, use the following guidelines for resolving the situation.

1. Are you sure that the symptoms or damage you see has been caused by spray drift? Contact your local agricultural office to help determine if the damage is the result of spray drift.
2. Contact the suspected applicator as soon as possible. View the damage with the suspected applicator and determine if that person did, in fact, cause the damage. 6.
3. If the damage was caused by the applicator, determine the extent of the damage and the level of compensation (if any) with the applicator.
4. If the situation cannot be resolved quickly because of disagreements of the extent of damage or level of compensation, contact your local agricultural office to discuss options on how to proceed. Documentation will be required, particularly if insurance companies are involved.
5. The involvement of a private consultant is recommended if documentation is required. Required documentation often includes samples of the damaged plants, photographs, and yield comparisons to determine losses. Your agricultural office can provide you with a list of private consultants in your area.
6. The best approach is to start an open and honest line of communication with the suspected applicator. The majority of drift complaints are resolved quickly and efficiently by communicating with the applicator, without the involvement of outside parties.