



## Pesticide Product Alert



April, 2008

### ADEC Notifies Retailers and Consumers about Unregistered Scotts Company Pesticides



Calling it a serious violation of its system for protecting public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered Scotts Miracle Gro Company and its affiliates on April 14, 2008 to **stop selling** certain pesticides because they are not properly registered and labeled.

The pesticides are commonly sold as “**Miracle Gro Shake n’ Feed all Purpose Plant Food Plus Weed Preventer**,” “**Garden Weed Preventer + Plant Food**” and “**Scotts Lawn Service Fertilizer with .28% Halts**,” but may also be sold under different names. They are widely used on lawns by homeowners. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is checking shelves at retail outlets throughout Alaska and has found one of the products at several retailers. State inspectors will continue to contact retailers and conduct inspections state-wide.

EPA has concluded that the Scotts products are not registered and are labeled with invalid EPA registration numbers. Pesticide products must be registered with the EPA and ADEC to protect public health and the environment before they can be sold in Alaska. The EPA registration process provides consumers with assurance that the products are safe when used in accordance with instructions on labels.

ADEC advises retailers that are selling these unregistered pesticides, including consumers who may have purchased them, to look at the EPA registration number on the label. Whatever the name, the products can be identified by the (invalid) EPA registration numbers appearing on the label. The numbers are:

- **EPA REG #62355-4**
- **EPA REG #538-304**

Until EPA has more information, consumers are advised not to purchase or use these products.

**Retailers that have these unregistered pesticides **MUST** remove them from the retail shelves and store them in a cool, dry place and contact their distributor or the Scotts Company directly regarding return options. If ADEC inspectors find the products at retail facilities they will be **STOP-SALED**.** Do not dispose of these products down the drain, in the garbage or at a community disposal site. Some of these products are extremely toxic to fish and aquatic organisms. Scotts Company has agreed to recall these products from all retail locations across the United States and to set up a process for consumers and retailers to safely return any unregistered pesticides they may have purchased.

Consumers that have purchased these unregistered pesticides should store them in a cool, dry place such as a garage or utility shed and contact Scotts Company or the retail outlet they purchased them from for further information.

**An EPA consumer hotline to answer questions about this action has been established at (888) 838-1304 or consumers can call the National Pesticide Information Center at (800) 858-7378 (6:30am-4:30pm Pacific Daylight Time). Consumers are also advised to contact Scotts Co at 1-888-295-0671 for instructions on how to safely return the products. Retailers should contact Scotts Company or their distributor for further information and instructions.**

EPA has posted information and fact sheets online at the following sites:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/6296934feb19a4185257434005c8127!OpenDocument>

<http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/>

<http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/ptb/news/ScottsQ&AFactSheetv-4-22-08.pdf>

Scotts Company has also posted information on the following websites:

[http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle\\_pf&ID=1134252&highlight=](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle_pf&ID=1134252&highlight=)

[http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle\\_pf&ID=1134944&highlight=](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle_pf&ID=1134944&highlight=)

For more information about Alaska Pesticide Registration and the ADEC Pesticide Program, visit <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/pest/index.htm> or **call 1-800-478-2577**

#### **Picture of one of the unregistered products and UPC codes:**

- UPC#: 073561008365 -- Miracle-Gro Shake 'n Feed with Weed Preventer, 4.5 lb. yellow plastic applicator jug
- UPC#: 073561048361 -- Miracle-Gro Shake 'n Feed with Weed Preventer, 8.0 lb. yellow plastic applicator jug, which is only sold through the club channel

