

## Washington bans use of clopyralid on lawns

OLYMPIA, WA — After grass clippings contaminated a compost facility in Seattle, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture has banned the use of the herbicide clopyralid on lawns for 120 days. The department plans to make the ban permanent, and is considering additional restrictions on its use. The department published a Clopyralid Fact Sheet explaining the action. Seattle-area newspapers began covering the issue in December.

Clopyralid is manufactured by Dow AgroSciences and sold

for turf and other agricultural uses under a variety of trade names, such as Confront, Lontrel, Stinger and Transline.

The new restriction makes products containing clopyralid "state-restricted use" pesticides when labeled for use on lawns and turf, including golf courses. Golf courses are exempt from the ban as long as no grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation are removed from a course and sent to a composting facility that provides product to the public.

Last October, the U.S. Composting Council published a position paper, warning that damage to non-target crops from clopyralid-contaminated compost has been documented in Washington state, Pennsylvania and New Zealand.

species." It is conducting research and working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address the issue.

The company points out that: "Confront herbicide is one of the most widely used clopyralid product for clover, dandelion, wild violet, chickweed, henbit and plantain control. Prior to its introduction, lawn care companies treated lawns three to five times per year with other products, often applied at higher rates. Clopyralid has helped applicators reduce the amount and frequency of herbicide applications."

### Dow AgroSciences working with U.S. EPA to address the compost issue

On March 20, Dow AgroSciences released a media advisory stating it is "committed to reducing the risk of it entering compost at levels that could cause injury to sensitive plant

You can read the company's position paper: "Clopyralid and Compost," on the company's Web site [www.dowagro.com](http://www.dowagro.com).

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Left, Ed Koenig, Lifestyle Landscaping, North Ridgeville, OH, and Joseph Schill, Schill Landscaping & Lawn Care, Sheffield Village, right, teamed with Gerald E. Haney, Yard Works, Inc., Avon Lake, to tell Ohio Landscape Association members that 2002 looks promising.