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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Rosemarie Lombardi V.M.D., Pesticides Control Program, (907) 376-1870  
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### **DEC Warns Consumers about Unregistered Pesticides**

*EPA orders Scotts Miracle Gro Company and affiliates to stop selling certain weed and feed pesticides*

Calling it a serious violation of its system for protecting public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered Scotts Miracle Gro Company and its affiliates 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 in Wasilla and Anchorage.

EPA has concluded that the two Scotts products are not registered and are labeled with invalid EPA registration numbers. DEC advises consumers who may have purchased one of these unregistered pesticides 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:

- **62355-4**
- **538-304**

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

Persons 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 their retail outlet. Please do not dispose of them down the drain, in the garbage or at a community disposal site. Scotts Company 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 pesticides they may have purchased.

Pesticide products must be registered with the EPA and by DEC 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.

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).

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

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/a5792a626c8dac098525735900400c2d/6296934febc19a4185257434005c8127!OpenDocument>

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

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

Scotts has also posted information and a number to call on the following websites:

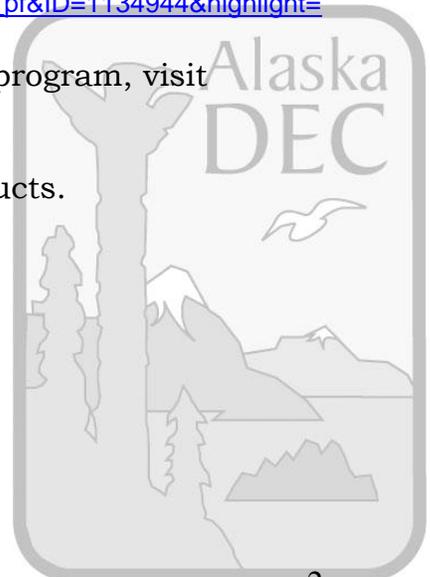
[http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle\\_pf&ID=1134252&highlight=](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=98364&p=irol-newsArticle_pf&ID=1134252&highlight=)

[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 DEC's pesticide control program, visit

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/pest/index.htm>

Attached is a picture of one of the unregistered products.





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