

Herbicide carryover in garden amendments

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The Schutter Diagnostic Lab is receiving many garden vegetable samples showing symptoms consistent with plant growth regulator herbicide injury. In many of these cases, we suspect carryover of persistent herbicides in garden amendments such as compost, manure, or topsoil. Symptoms include extreme cupping and twisting of leaves, twisting and/or cracking of stems, and general distortion of plant parts. Leaves may feel thicker than normal, and may have veins that look more parallel than usual. These symptoms can come from other sources, including herbicide drift if there are many hosts affected, or insect or disease issues if symptoms are not widespread. One clue that herbicide carryover may be the issue include many different hosts being affected, but usually most pronounced injury is to tomatoes and potatoes, with peppers, beans, peas, squash, and other vegetables also showing some symptoms. Another clue is a recent application of manure or compost, or a recent load of topsoil being brought in to fill raised beds.

Please see the link below for more information about this issue, and for instructions on how to perform a simple bioassay to determine if an amendment may be contaminated.

<http://msuextension.org/publications/AGandNaturalResources/MT201612AG.pdf>

Contact Noelle Orloff (994-6297; noelleorloff@montana.edu) with further questions.

