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# Walmart suit refiled

## Madison Twp. nursery owner seeking \$10 million in damages

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The owner of a Madison Township nursery has refiled a lawsuit against Walmart Supercenter, seeking more money for alleged contaminated water.

Egidius Stroombeek, owner of Roemer Nursery Inc., 2310 Green Road, is now seeking \$10 million — double the \$5 million he sought

when he originally sued in August 2009.

Stroombeek refiled a suit Monday in Lake County Common Pleas Court claiming Walmart's Madison Township Supercenter is knowingly releasing contaminated water that drains from the building's roof and parking lot into the local ground and surface water.

"The Wal-Mart Supercenter ... is squeezing the life out of Roemer Nursery, a business that had thrived

and survived in Madison for nearly 50 years before Wal-Mart moved to town," Cleveland attorney Richard Demsey stated in the suit.

"But it is not business competition that is killing Roemer Nursery. It is the contaminants that Wal-Mart has deposited and continues to deposit into the local ground water that is literally killing the plant inventory of Roemer Nursery, forcing the business to the brink of ruin."

Fourteen other defendants — including Painesville Township-based Lake County Landscape & Supply — are named in the suit, which claims Roemer's Nursery's primary irrigation pond has been poisoned with sodium levels so toxic the company's existence "hangs in balance."

In addition to damages and court costs, company officials are asking Judge Richard L. Collins Jr. for an injunction requiring the defendants

to clean the irrigation water and make it safe.

Walmart, located at 6067 North Ridge Road, is about 2,000 feet southeast of the nursery.

A Wal-Mart corporate spokesman did not immediately respond to an emailed query seeking comment.

Officials at Lake County Landscape, which provided de-icing and snowplowing services at the shopping plaza, did not return a phone call.