Baidy hired for Oneida Nation courses

VERONA, N.Y. — Joe Baidy, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1995-96 and superintendent of Acadia Country Club near Cleveland for the past 12 years, has been named director of golf courses and grounds at the Oneida Nation’s Turning Stone Resort here. Baidy is overseeing the 18-hole Shenandoah Golf Course, a nine-hole par-3 layout, teaching facility and driving range which will open next season.

Joe Baidy

Baidy brings 30 years of experience, including eight years at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester and nine at Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh.

AURORA, Colo. — The city of Aurora Golf Division has named Mike Osley as the head superintendent of the Murphy Creek Course, which is scheduled to begin construction this summer. Osley has 7-1/2 years experience as a superintendent in Tallahassee, Fla.

Mike Osley

Designed by Ken Kavanaugh, Murphy Creek will be an 18-hole prairie links-style course with wide corridors and rolling terrain.

Earthworm 'fix'

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may stop short on worm-softened fairways, and golf balls may be muddied where they land. Mower blades are dulled, and mowers return to the maintenance complex caked with mud.

Over the past decade, my research team ran several multiyear field tests to evaluate the effects of turfgrass pesticides on earthworms.

My original intent was to help turf managers avoid killing earthworms, but I've since learned there are two sides to this issue. Indeed, most of the interest in our earthworm research has been from superintendents who were more concerned with suppressing earthworms. Here are some options for managing this problem:

Strictly speaking, turf managers in the United States cannot apply pesticides for earthworm control because no chemicals are labeled for such use. However, several products will kill a portion of the earthworms as a non-target effect when they are applied for control of insects or diseases listed on their labels.

According to our research, the insecticides bendiocarb (Turcam), carbaryl (Sevin), ethoprop (Mocap), or fonofos (Crusade) are toxic to earthworms. Any of these products, applied at rates labeled for grub control and watered in (1/2 to 1 inch of irrigation), generally will give an 85- to 95-percent reduction of earthworms.

The fungicide thiophanate-methyl (Cleary’s 3336) provided similar suppression. The impact is greatest if the application occurs when the soil is moist and the earthworms are active near the surface. One application often will reduce casting activity for 2 months or longer, not from residual toxicity, but because the earthworms are slow to reproduce or recolonize treated areas.

In England, carbaryl (Twister), and the fungicides carbendazim (Turfclear) and gamma HCH and thiophanate-methyl (CastAway Plus) are registered for "control of earthworm casts."

These products are not labeled for worm control in the United States. Availability and registration of products in other countries varies.

Most earthworm species are intolerant of acidic soils. Application of aluminum sulfate or sulfur to lower the soil pH to 5.8 or less may reduce their population.

Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994


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