

1998 TURFGRASS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

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It was banner year for the MSU Turfgrass Environmental Education Program in 1998 with the launch of the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program. The turfgrass industry in Michigan should be proud of the efforts of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation board members for their support and involvement in this project. The objective of the program is to advance the environmental stewardship of Michigan golf courses and recognize their proactive environmental efforts. We have some important partners in this project including the Michigan Department of Agriculture, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Golf Association of Michigan. In March of 1998 Ms. Debra Swartz was hired to manage the program and launch it statewide. She is from the Environmental Assistance Program at the DEQ. She has been a leader for many years in the area of groundwater protection and adds an outstanding dimension to the program.

The program is focused in two main areas - pollution prevention and environmental enhancement. The pollution prevention area has received the most attention and development over the last two years and is currently available for program participants. It is a process to evaluate your golf course property for the level of protection from environmental contaminants and will determine your level of regulatory compliance. The environmental enhancement area has been developing over the last year and will be available to participants in 1999. The concept is for golf course properties to advance in the areas of water quality protection, enhancement of wildlife habitat, and promotion of native vegetation. Over the last year the program steering committee has been interviewing groups throughout the state that have been successful in these areas. These groups include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Michigan Environmental Council, Natural Heritage Program, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Washtenaw County Drain Commission, Huron River Watershed Council, Clinton River Watershed Council and others. There is genuine interest and excitement throughout these groups as they become familiar with the goals of this project. To become a member, contact Greg Lyman or Debra Swartz about workshop and program information.

I would like to recognize the efforts the steering committee of the last year. Without their guidance and hard work, we would have been able to make the significant strides that were achieved in 1998. Please congratulate them for their efforts on your behalf.

Brett Marshall	Golf Association of Michigan
Dan Banks	Michigan Turfgrass Foundation
Paul Muelle	Huron Clinton MetroPark Authority
Jeff Holmes	Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association
Dave Foucher	Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association
Craig Hoffman	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Association
Jim Moore	Mid Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association
Fritz McMullen	Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association
Tad Davis	Michigan Golf Course Owners Association

Clean Sweep Program

The Groundwater Stewardship Program at the Michigan Department of Agriculture has been aggressively building a mechanism to move old, unusable or unwanted pesticides off your storage shelves and into the hands of disposal professionals. We have conducted several Clean Sweep projects in the past five years for the green industry, but the system just became even easier. Eleven permanent Clean Sweep disposal sites were announced in 1998 and one should be within striking distance of your operation.

There is no cost for those operations that are considered end users of the products. These include ground maintenance, golf courses, athletic fields, municipalities, and homeowners. Those who are in the business of selling pesticide application services will be charged a nominal cost; around \$ 1.00 dollar per pound. This is a fraction of the cost if you tried to arrange this yourself. Program costs are covered by the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, and services provided by the local cooperators. This includes unknown