

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Gregory T. Lyman
Turfgrass Environmental Education Program
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences

The last year has been exciting and productive for the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program. The project was launched in mid-1998 and is tailored for golf course properties. The program has been developed as a partnership between the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Michigan State University, the Golf Association of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Over 160 courses are involved in the program that is designed to provide a clear and simple environmental plan for any golf property. The emphasis of the program is to identify the natural resources on the property and then conduct a simple assessment of potential impacts to the resources. Technical assistance is provided that identifies simple upgrades that will enhance protection of natural resources and reduce liability. This assistance is also designed to provide practical tips to resolve regulatory compliance challenges. It is a common reaction for golf course property owners to resist any inquiry into the operation of their golf course and often resolve to get involved after they make changes to obvious problem areas. There is no need to wait! This program is designed to help provide an easy plan to make upgrades and will save money by giving you access to practical information from other professionals that have already faced similar challenges.

Workshops are available throughout the winter season and will be held in each region of the state. Look for one at a course near you and call to become registered. Over the next year we will be working toward expanding the program into the grounds maintenance and lawn care segments of the industry.

Clean Sweep Program

First, let's tip our hat to the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program at the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). The MDA has been aggressively building a mechanism to move old, unusable or unwanted pesticides off your storage shelves and into the hands of disposal professionals. They continue to establish and maintain permanent Clean Sweep disposal sites. The current sites and contacts are listed below.

In general, green industry operations don't have large quantities of unusable or unwanted pesticide products hanging around in storage sheds. More commonly, small amounts of a few products accumulate over time. If you do have a drum or a pallet of stuff, you can make arrangements with your local site for the best approach.

The System

Let's cover the ground rules. Again, 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, lawn care operations, will be charged a nominal cost; around \$1.00 dollar per pound. This is a fraction of the cost if you were to make these arrangements yourself. This includes unknown

pesticide products – those packages that have no label. If you have containers that are old and oozing, put them in clear plastic bags until drop off day. To take advantage of this system, simply contact a site close to your operation, let them know what you have, follow their packing and transport directions, make arrangements to drop them off at the site, and then drive away with a smile knowing that you have helped your company, the environment and the industry.

This is an incredible tool that can make a difference in the health of your operation. Don't let it pass.....

Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Sites

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. John Gruchot
 Berrien Co. Dept. of Planning
 Administration Center
 701 Main Street
 St. Joseph, MI 49085
 work (616) 983-7111
 fax (616) 982-8611</p> | <p>2. Darwin Baas
 County of Ottawa Health Dept.
 Environmental Health Division
 12251 James Street, Suite 200
 Holland, MI 49424-9675
 work (616) 393-5638
 fax (616) 393-5643
 email: dbaaseco.ottawa.mi.us</p> | <p>3. Don Pyle
 Delta Soil Waste Management
 Authority
 5701 – 19th Avenue North
 Escanaba, MI 49829
 work (906) 786-9056
 fax (906) 786-0825
 email: DSWMA@UP.Net</p> |
| <p>4. Anna Collinson
 Grand Traverse County
 400 Boardman Avenue
 Traverse City, MI 49684
 work (231) 922-6890
 fax (231) 922-4427</p> | <p>5. Michelle Stemler
 Ionia Co. Resource Recovery
 100 Library
 Ionia, MI 48846
 work (616) 527-5357
 fax (616) 527-5312</p> | <p>6. Dawn George
 Isabella Co. Recycling Program
 4208 East River Road
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
 work (517) 773-9631
 fax (517) 773-0835
 email: dgeorge@voyager.net</p> |
| <p>7. Tom Dewhirst
 Kalamazoo Co. Human Service
 1301 Lamont Avenue
 Kalamazoo, MI 49001
 work (616) 383-8741
 fax (616) 383-8747</p> | <p>8. Sara Lesky
 Lapeer Co. Environmental Dept.
 255 Clay Street
 Lapeer, MI 48446
 work (810) 667-0452
 fax (810) 667-0369
 email: slesky@hotmail.com</p> | <p>9. Elwin Coll/Steve Lichota
 Macomb County Health Dept.
 43525 Elizabeth
 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
 work (810) 469-5235
 fax (810) 469-5885</p> |
| <p>10. Rick Aho
 Marquette County Solid Waste
 600 County Road NP
 Marquette, MI 49855
 work (906) 249-4108
 fax (906) 249-9377</p> | <p>11. Ned Birkey/Maureen Pfund
 Monroe Co. MSU Extension
 963 South Raisinville Road
 Monroe, MI 48161
 work (734) 240-3170
 fax (734) 240-3183</p> | <p>12. Thomas Waffan
 SOCRRRA
 3910 West Webster Road
 Royal Oak, MI 48073-6764
 work (248) 288-5150
 fax (248) 435-0310
 email: socrra@flash.net</p> |