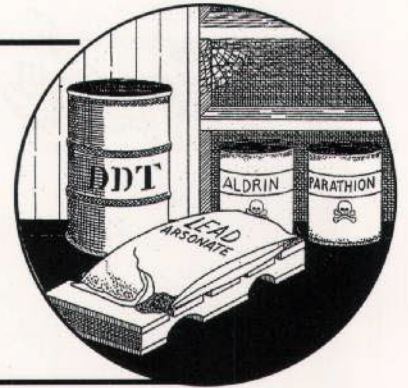


Green Clean Sweep

Keeping Our Side of the Street Clean...

By Dr. Frank S. Rossi
Department of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin-Madison



As you know, I have used a fair amount of space in *THE GRASS ROOTS* discussing environmental issues. My approach in the articles is typically of a philosophical nature; challenging you and myself to ponder our role as agronomists, biologists and human beings. I believe that this is a caring profession filled with individuals who want what is best for the environment. When I present my Environmental Risk Management seminar, I talk about focusing on keeping our side of the street clean—here's your chance.

On Saturday August 20, 1994 in cooperation with county officials, the UW-Extension-Waukesha office and the UW-Turfgrass Program are providing an opportunity for professionals in the Green Industry in Waukesha County to dispose of unwanted, outdated, banned and non-usable pesticides. Historically, this service has been funded by the federal, state and local government exclusively for persons who produce an agricultural commodity. This is a pilot effort for our industry and will be held in conjunction with the Agricultural Clean Sweep for private applicators.

Currently, we are coordinating with county officials to develop surveys, establish a fee structure, offer satellite locations to reduce traveling distance and outline collection site responsibilities. The golf course superintendents and other green industry representatives in the vicinity of the collection sites will be asked for some volunteer assistance.

Our hope is to develop a protocol that can be used for future clean sweeps.

I am looking forward to helping this industry reduce pesticide inventories, especially, pesticides that are no longer legal to use. We need to take this proactive step as an industry to demonstrate our commitment to "cleaning our side of the street". You will be hearing more about the details of this effort as the summer progresses. However, if you are in the Waukesha County area and would like to be involved in the effort, please FAX me a brief note with your name, affiliation and phone number—my FAX number is (608) 262-4743.

This event is the first of many that the UW-Turfgrass Program will be offering through the Integrated Turfgrass and Environmental Management (ITEM) program. Future events will include seminars on Designing Pesticide Containment Facilities, Environmental Communication, Developing an Integrated Pest Management program and the UW-School of Turfgrass Management. There will be an ITEM series of publications that address environmental regulations and compliance in Wisconsin. Finally, we are in the midst of overhauling the Pesticide Applicator Training program for Turfgrass and Ornamentals, in order to enhance the quality of education offered to pesticide applicators. ♣

PROGRESS?

