

# MINNESOTA GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO

JUNE 19, 1985  
8:00 a.m.

MINNESOTA GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO '85 is a combined effort of twelve professional organizations who are employed in the green industry. The summer show allows the members of each organization to see a wide selection of equipment and supply company displays.

Site: Anoka Area Vocational Technical Institute  
Rum River Campus, 3929 North 7th Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303

Person to contact: Bob Lund  
5500 International Parkway  
New Hope, Minn. 55428  
612/533-4823

#### Co-Sponsored by:

Minnesota Park Supervisors Association  
Minnesota Street Superintendents Assoc.  
Minnesota Golf Course Supts. Assoc.  
Minnesota Turf Association  
Minnesota Ice Arena Managers Assoc.  
Minnesota Society of Arborists  
Minnesota Assoc. of School Maint. Supvrs  
Minnesota Hospital Groundskeepers  
Grounds Supervisors of Area Colleges  
Minnesota Cemeterykeepers Association  
Minnesota Recreation and Park Assoc.  
Lawn Services

## The New Show

The GCSAA Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference and Show is something quite new and exciting. In presenting this noteworthy event, the Association is responding to repeated requests — from both members and from prospective exhibitors — for a variety of opportunities, including the following:

- A smaller show with lower cost, thus making it possible for the superintendents to bring in their staffs.
- Hands-on mechanics' training, with involvement by the appropriate industry.
- Extension of GCSAA's excellent educational seminars.
- A buying and selling show, where discounts and other commercial incentives can be given.
- An outside turfgrass equipment demonstration site.

## Earthworms - Friend or Foe

Roscoe Randall, Extension Entomologist  
University of Illinois


Turf managers are not unanimous in their opinion of earthworms being a benefit to turf or being a pest or more correctly, a nuisance. Since 1970, it has been reported by researchers in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio that earthworm activity can be reduced by pesticides. The chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides, chlordane and dieldrin reduced earthworm activity for 4 months with a single application and longer with repeated applications over a 3 or 4 year period.

Thatch accumulation increased with the continued use of chlordane and dieldrin. This is understandable since the undecomposed debris or thatch layer is one of the favorite foods of earthworms especially in the early spring and late fall months when soil temperatures are cool. Since chlordane and dieldrin are no longer labeled for use on turfgrass areas, other pesticides have been tested as to their effect on earthworm activity. Insecticides such as diazinon, trichlorfon (Proxol, Dylox), and Dursban at labeled rates did not curtail earthworm activity. A report from Ohio in 1972 showed that Dyfonate, a similar product to diazinon but not labeled for turf, reduced earthworm activity for six weeks. There are some unofficial reports of earthworm reduction with some carbamates at high rates but not for any duration.

So where does this leave the situation? First, most insecticides used today for turf insect control have little or no effect on earthworm numbers or their activity of constructing casts in order to feed on dead grass or thatch. Second, what is effective must be residual and poisonous to the earthworms. Since chlordane and dieldrin are no longer labeled, the only alternative is the possibility of using an arsenical, a class of insecticides older than chlordane! Calcium arsenate and lead arsenate are two possibilities with the calcium form being most available.

From a personal standpoint, I am not suggesting or recommending the control of earthworms. But I also realize that their castings on greens and tees have been unusually numerous this spring as well as the past November and December. Reduction or elimination of earthworm activity in the fairways will undoubtedly increase thatch accumulation. If earthworms are your friend, rake down or level their castings and thank them for the thatch removal. If they are creating a serious problem of managing high quality greens and tees, control them with calcium arsenate, an inorganic insecticide. Do not attempt to reduce them with the organic insecticides labeled for turfgrass such as diazinon, Oftanol, Proxol, etc. They are at most temporarily effective.

### RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!



*If you know someone, a friend, an assistant, a co-worker who is interested in our association . . . be sure to bring them to our next meeting.*