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## **FPMA Applauds Sarasota County Commission and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council; Announces Partnership**

**Sarasota, Fla.** (May 11, 2007) — Pledging to work with University of Florida scientists, state regulators and industry stakeholders, the Sarasota County Commission Tuesday, and the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Committee (SWFRPC) Friday, agreed to use the Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices (BMPs) as the basis for future fertilizer ordinances in the region.

The decisions were immediately heralded as a major victory for the protection of water resources by green industry professionals throughout Florida. The Florida Green Industries BMPs were developed through a cooperative effort between the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Florida Water Management Districts and industry stakeholders.

The Florida Green Industry BMP and accompanying certification program is considered to be the scientifically accepted standard for the protection of water resources by green industry professionals in Florida.

Both Sarasota County and the SWFRPC acknowledge the leadership of the Florida Department of Agriculture in their development of a rule which adopts and incorporates by reference the Florida Green Industry BMPs. While each body will continue to deliberate on the issue, they wait until the rule making process has concluded before considering further action on the issue of fertilizer usage.

“Sarasota and the SWRPC have set the table for sound science, and hopefully established an important precedent around the state and nation.” said **Matthew B. Dempsey**, executive vice president of the Florida Pest Management Association (FPMA).

FPMA has announced plans to form a partnership between IFAS, DEP, DOACS, DCA, the water management districts, and cities and counties throughout Florida for the implementation of the Green Industries BMPs throughout Florida and certification of every green industry professional in the state.

For information on Green Industry BMP certification, call or log onto [www.flpma.org](http://www.flpma.org). Copies of the Green Industry BMPs are also available online at [www.dep.state.fl.us/central/Home/MeetingsTraining/FLGreen/BMP\\_Book\\_final.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/central/Home/MeetingsTraining/FLGreen/BMP_Book_final.pdf).

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*Founded in 1945, the Florida Pest Management Association is one of the largest state pest control organizations in the country, and promotes “Protecting Your Environment” to the public and industry. Visit [www.flpma.org](http://www.flpma.org),*