

## Update on Sarasota County Fertilizer Ordinance

**Sarasota, Fla.** (July 18, 2007) — On July 11, The Sarasota County Commissioner voted to continue their deliberations upon the impact of Sarasota County Proposed Fertilizer Ordinance on licensed pest control operators in Florida. FPMA and other stakeholders view the Commission's decision as a major step towards the acceptance of the Florida Green Industry Best Management Practices (BMPs) by local governments throughout Florida.

Currently, representatives from FPMA, the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS) and others are working with Sarasota County Commissioners to develop provisions within the Sarasota Fertilizer Ordinance which incorporates the best available science for the protection of water resources while avoiding duplicative licensure and training requirements. A final meeting of the Sarasota County Commission is scheduled for late August.

In the effort to communicate the importance and significance of the Florida Green Industry BMPs, FPMA wishes to recognize the many of the pest control industry who gave generously of their time and resources. Particularly of note has been the on-going dedication of **George Pickhardt** of Arrow Environmental Services, **Erica Santella** of TruGreen-ChemLawn, **Pete Massarelli** of Lesco, **Nick Libretto** of ABC Pest Control, **Mark Cain** of Halo Pest Control, **Joe Welch** with Middleton, and many others.