

Golf BMP Manual Completed!

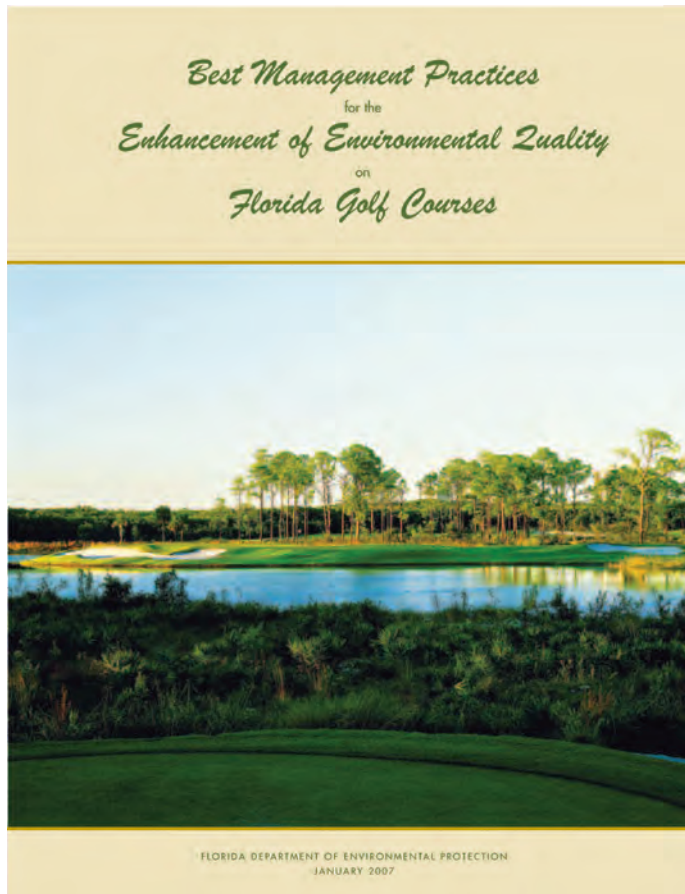
IN AN ERA of growing environmental sensitivity Florida agriculture and green industries joined with the state regulatory agencies and water management districts to write a series of Best Management Practices for the various commodities. Following in the footsteps and building upon the experiences of the citrus, cattle, dairy, aquaculture and forestry industries, the turf industry also has produced a library of manuals that will provide guidance not only to end users but also to local governments when considering local ordinances. The Green Industries BMP manual was published in 2002 and soon after the Golf and Sod Industry BMP Manuals were begun in earnest.

After a three-year period of drafting and editing, a comprehensive Golf BMP Manual is currently in final production. A copy will be mailed to every golf course superintendent and general manager in the state. By formally declaring intent and showing by documentation, any course that complies with the BMPs will be recognized by the state as being in compliance and not subject to any regulatory action. Here are the introductory statements from



Michael W. Sole, Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection and FGCSA President Craig Weyandt that appear in the Manual:

I AM PLEASED to present the new edition of Best



Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses. This manual reflects the collaborative efforts of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, the University of Florida and many private sector partners to develop nonregulatory guidelines for minimizing pollution and conserving Florida's precious water resources. Water conservation is one of our most crucial environmental issues. By adopting and applying the practices recommended in this guide, industry as well as individuals will help protect our natural resources, minimize the need for future regulations, and continue Florida's commitment to sound environmental stewardship.

Michael W. Sole, Secretary Florida Department of Environmental Protection

enhancing the environment on Florida's golf courses. There is a reason that wildlife gravitates to golf courses even in urban settings, where they serve as greenbelts. Golf courses present opportunities for many diverse wildlife habitats. By following the practices in this manual, the golf course industry will be able to demonstrate the positive contributions that golf courses make to communities across the state of Florida.

Craig Weyandt, President Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association



'...demonstrate that environmental stewardship is a responsibility that is taken seriously'

THESE BEST MANAGEMENT Practices were born from the desire of Florida golf course superintendents to demonstrate that environmental stewardship is a responsibility that is taken seriously. The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association wishes to acknowledge the time, effort, and expertise of the staff of FDEP and other regulatory agencies, the University of Florida–IFAS faculty, and other members of the private and public sector who partnered with us to help develop these voluntary guidelines for