



NEWS RELEASE OF NOTE

Phosphorous Acid OK'd as Plant Nutrient Material

The Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services has recognized a new plant nutrient in the form of phosphorous acid.

Since 1995 the Department investigated claims from the agrochemical industry that phosphorous acid may actually be used as a fungicide against Pythium and Phytophthora sp. and petitioned the Department not to recognize phosphorous acid as a nutrient. But after an exhausting five-year study and review, the Department agreed phosphorous acid meets the definition as a plant nutrient and approved its use as such.

The scientific journal, *HortTechnology*, will publish in the near future a peer-reviewed article that quantifies and demonstrates a beneficial plant growth response attributable to phosphorous acid.

Not to be confused with traditional

phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid is more water-soluble and can be readily taken up by the plant when applied as a foliar spray. Phosphorous acid is used at far less dosage rates than phosphoric acid and is recommended for supplemental use when there are high demands for phosphorous, such as, new root and shoot growth, flowering and fruit production.

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Editor's Note: Phyto-Fos is the trade name of the new phosphorous acid product available locally. For more information contact Ted Owen, Upstart Products, at 800-203-5629.

NEWS RELEASE OF NOTE

Lease Program Allows 100% Irrigation System Financing

Golf courses can finance the entire cost of Flowtronex PSI's pumping

systems, including the cost of freight and installation, thanks to a unique leasing program just unveiled by the company.

Flowtronex PSI's preferred lease rate schedules provide flexible monthly payments for pumping systems. Not only do these plans make Flowtronex systems affordable for almost any course, they preserve working capital and conserve existing bank lines to boost profits and stretch dollars, says Flowtronex PSI Marketing Director Willie Slingerland.

"Lease payments also can be written off as business expense," says Slingerland. "And the additional profits realized by better investments can cover monthly lease payments. That's a win-win situation."

Slingerland said some of the advantages of leasing that golf courses should consider are:

Conserving existing bank lines—Leasing frees up bank credit for working capital, discount purchases, or to use in short-term emergencies.

Preserving working capital for greater

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profits –Companies can earn more by investing in inventory or other gainful opportunities, rather than tying up hard-earned profits in long-term equipment purchases which will depreciate in value.

Affordability – Golf courses can acquire new equipment conveniently and affordably, when budget restrictions might not allow for purchasing the equipment

“We can finance almost any course’s equipment needs with flexible lease packages that run anywhere from 24 to 60 months,” Slingerland says. “And a simple credit application is all that is required to set up an Express Lease for systems costing up to \$100,000. We can finance systems up to \$1 million with a more extensive financial report. Approval usually takes only a day or two.”

Flowtronex PSI can structure the lease/finance plan to fit any course’s need, such as providing for deferred payments for courses under construction and not yet earning income, and skip payments for courses closed during winter months.

With more than 8,000 golf course installations worldwide, Flowtronex PSI is the world’s largest manufacturer of water pumping systems for the turfgrass industry.

WILLIE SLINGERLAND

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Editor’s note: As a rule, we do not run news releases on new products, companies or personnel. Exceptions are made from time to time solely at the editor’s discretion when new technology or services are announced that offer new turf management options to our readers.

FLORIDA AUTOMATED WEATHER NETWORK

Current Weather Data

Available From IFAS

The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) is composed of 16 automated weather stations located at UF/IFAS Research and Education Cen-

ters and Extension Service Sites in Central and South Florida.

Its mission is “to provide accurate and timely weather data to a wide variety of users.” Because of the importance of weather in agriculture, every effort is made to have data collected and reported every 15 minutes.

Each site collects the temperature at 2, 6, and 30 feet, a soil temperature at 4 inches, wind speed and direction at 30 feet, relative humidity, rainfall, barometric pressure and radiation. Leaf wetness will be added soon. The information is transmitted to Gainesville where it is then distributed through the Internet (web site <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu>—There is no “www” in the address) and by way of a voice data system (see below).

Weather information is essential for agriculture and natural resource management. Although the initial motivation for the development of FAWN was a real-time data collection and delivery system for agriculture, interest and re-



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