

# Golf BMP Manual Completed!

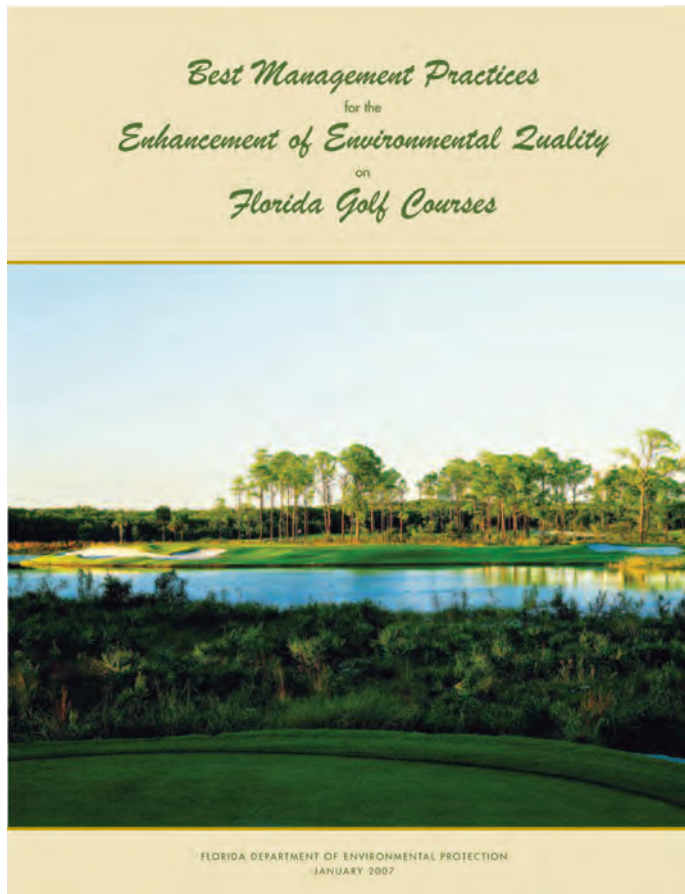
IN AN ERA of growing environmental sensitivity Florida agriculture and green industries joined with the state regulatory agencies and water management districts to write a series of Best Management Practices for the various commodities. Following in the footsteps and building upon the experiences of 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



*This is the way your pest control room should look. All it takes is a broom, some paint and some steel shelving. Photo by Jason Kubel.*

## Operation Cleansweep Collects 1 Million Pounds Of Pesticides

By Terence McElroy and Sarah Williams

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael W. Sole announced in mid-March that "Operation Cleansweep" had collected more than 1 million pounds of pesticides during the program's 12 years of

operation. A partnership between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the program collects canceled, suspended or unusable pesticides from Florida farmers, nurseries, golf courses and pest control companies for proper disposal.

"Our agency's efforts, and that of DEP, have removed more than 1 million pounds of unused and outdated pesticides from farms, businesses and other commercial sites – chemicals that otherwise could pose a danger to our environment," Bronson said. "This program illustrates what government can accomplish when it works together."

Operation Cleansweep collects and disposes of pesticides to protect agricultural workers, emergency responders, the public and the environment from potential health and environmental risks from stored pesticides. Some products are old and may be stored in containers that are deteriorating, while others, such as chlordane and DDT, can no longer be used legally. To date, pesticide products have been collected from nearly 1,500 participating farms, dairies, ranches, nurseries, golf courses and professional pest control operations in 65 counties.

"Operation Cleansweep is a convenient, cost-effective, public-private partnership to dispose of unwanted or outdated pesticides, providing free collection and disposal for Florida's pesticide consumers," said Sole. "This program provides a safe method of collection and disposal that is more

protective of Florida's natural resources and our agricultural economy."

Proper disposal of pesticides can be costly and a complicated regulatory burden for small farmers and other pesticide users. Operation Cleansweep offers an opportunity to avoid these formidable barriers and promotes safe and environmentally-sound pesticide use, handling and disposal.

In addition to disposal of unwanted pesticides, participants in the program also receive educational material that includes tips on purchasing pesticides; inventory control; stock rotation; proper labeling, storage, and handling; and how to respond to leaks, spills, and exposure incidents. Funded by in-kind contributions from public and private partners and the Florida Legislature, the program's goal is to collect and dispose of unwanted pesticides as well as prevent the need for future Operation Cleansweep collections through proper storage, labeling and pesticide purchasing.

To sign up for Cleansweep collection and disposal service, e-mail Robin Waddell at [waddelr@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:waddelr@doacs.state.fl.us) at the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; or call toll free at 877-851-5285, or fax at 386-418-5527.

For other information about Florida's Operation Cleansweep, e-mail John L. Price at [ljohn.l.price@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:ljohn.l.price@dep.state.fl.us) at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or call him at 850-245-8751 (SunCom 205-8751) or fax at 850-245-8811 (SunCom 205-8811).



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