



FGCSA Best Management Practices for Golf

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After a lot of hard work, the Florida GCSA is prepared to roll out its Certification Program for the Best Management Practices for Golf. This program, designed to build upon the BMP manual published in 2007, is intended to educate superintendents, golf course employees and vendors on the best ways to manage golf course agronomics while minimizing any negative environmental impacts.

University professors and industry professionals will teach the program. The program will be delivered as a six-hour seminar immediately followed by an exam. Passing the exam will certify an individual for four years with recertification simply requiring attendance of another FGCSA BMP Seminar to learn the latest changes and updates to the BMPs. In addition to certification, the program will count toward CEUs for your state pesticide

license and GCSAA PDI/CGCS points. This program does not currently replace any local Green Industry BMP (GIBMP) class requirements.

While current law does not require this program, it is a valuable tool for education and awareness of superintendents and affiliated golf industry personnel on the most current BMPs for golf course maintenance.

It is important that Florida superintendents demonstrate their dedication toward understanding and following the Golf BMPs. By developing a successful and well-participated program, the superintendents around the state can strengthen their credibility and science-based position when faced with fertilizer, chemical and water restrictions.

The program will send a strong message to lawmakers and the public showing that the state's golf courses

are committed to doing what is in the best interest of the environment while maintaining their facilities, which are small businesses, using the best resources available.

Without your participation, the program falls short in its intent to better educate turf professionals and show lawmakers and regulators the industry's dedication to preserving the environment. Please be on the lookout for more information to come on the regional scheduling of the BMP Programs.

Editor's Note: The FGCSA Board and the BMP Committee are finalizing dates and locations to hold a series of statewide regional BMP programs. Speakers and venues have to be arranged. More information on registration and testing and any required re-testing procedures will be announced when the schedule is set. ■