



# URGENT! MSMA INFORMATION ALERT TO GOLF COURSES

On August 6, 2013, the following Florida Golf Courses MSMA Information Alert was issued to remind everyone about the current MSMA usage requirements.

“Recent inspections by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services indicate that some golf courses may be in violation of current requirements regarding usage of MSMA.

**To assure compliance, remember:**

- “The label is the law.” Using a pesticide in a manner that is inconsistent with the use directions on the label is a violation of the Florida Pesticide Law and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and can result in enforcement action
- Currently marketed MSMA products bear labels that prohibit use in Florida golf courses and turf. These labels limit the use of MSMA in Florida to cotton in specified counties. Application of such products on golf courses constitutes a misuse or misapplication, which can result in citations for non-compliance. Misuse or misapplication leading to contamination of soil or ground water may also be deemed by environmental authorities to be a pollutant “discharge” pursuant to 376.305(13), F.S., and create liability

for environmental clean ups.

- Some golf courses may be in possession of existing stocks of earlier MSMA products that are labeled for use on Florida golf courses. These products may be used in accordance with the label until stocks are exhausted.

It is critical that golf course superintendents across the state comply with all MSMA label restrictions. Continuing violations may lead to rulemaking to eliminate all MSMA usage for golf courses in Florida. For additional information or questions please contact:

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*(Editor’s Note: The FGCSA has built a good working relationship with state regulators over the years. It would be a shame to let a few people to destroy that trust and goodwill we have developed. We call on all superintendents and vendors to make sure they follow the law in all that they do.)*