

5/21/09

Hello out there!

Regulation of Fertilizer Applicators at the State Level

Maybe you have heard by now that the bill proposing regulation of fertilizer applicators was voted on in the legislature and passed.

It is not actually law yet, as it still has to be signed by the Governor.

See the SB 494 bill as amended on April 30 here:

http://www.flsenate.gov/cgi-bin/view_page.pl?Tab=session&Submenu=1&FT=D&File=sb0494er.html&Directory=session/2009/Senate/bills/billtext/html/

See other info on it here:

http://www.flsenate.gov/session/index.cfm?BI_Mode=ViewBillInfo&Mode=Bills&ElementID=JumpToBox&SubMenu=1&Year=2009&billnum=494

What's in it?

It provides commercial fertilizer applicators until January 2014 to have a best management practices certification to use fertilizer in urban landscapes. It places the management of the certification under FDCAS. It sets up a four year renewal period for the certification and requires four CEUs to renew the certification. It sets up fees for certification (\$25- \$75), renewal and late fees. It states that it takes effect July 1, 2009 (of course it has to be signed first).

It also has a lot of language on irrigation, and looks like it may be opening up a variance for using soil moisture sensors rather than only watering on a specified day.

Not a Surprise

By now this should not be a big surprise as this has been a long time in the works. Agents across the state are preparing to deliver this training.

We have a lot of landscape professionals using fertilizer! Look out!

BMP Training at Brooker Creek

The BMP training at Brooker Creek had a turnout of about 65 and some Agents from neighboring programs got their feet wet with the program.

That location was wild!

Really interesting but pretty difficult to figure out where you are going!!

We did not have very many from Hillsborough County there. Are you planning to come to the dates scheduled at the office?

Green Industries Best Management Practices in Hillsborough County

June 11

August 27

September 24

October 28

See the flyer at

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/BMP%20Flyer09dates.pdf>

Find your date and register here

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/events/index.shtml>

At the County Level

The Hillsborough County EPC Board met today. I did not attend, but as I understand it the results of the fact finding discussions and the April meeting at the Extension office were relayed and the EPC group was looking for further direction from the board as to how to proceed.

TMDL Activity

I wish I had a smooth understanding of just how things go with TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) and rule development about them. What I can tell you is that these are limits set on the amount of pollutants that a water body can take for it's specified use, and we have quite a few in our area that are considered impaired.

Waters can be considered impaired for different reasons; nutrient levels are one of those reasons. Another is levels of coliform (bacteria).

The TMDLs are set/ overseen by EPA and DEP and are entering a period of increased activity/ regulation/ enforcement/ rule development.

Sessions were held this week about TMDLs for coliform and as I understand it other TMDLs for the Tampa Bay area, including nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous will be discussed in the coming future (month-ish time frame).

Another Round of Meetings

I will let you know as I know more, but what this means to you is another round of meetings to discuss water quality and address

contributions from landscapes to pollutant levels.

Taking the time to represent the interests of the industry/ your business makes a big difference in how these meetings proceed. If everyone attending the meeting represents one viewpoint, the discussions will tend to favor that direction. There is no substitute for actually attending. I will let you know as I know more...

Other than that...

Upcoming Training

Limited Commercial Maintenance and Limited L&O Training

Required training for the "Roundup license"

Hillsborough County Extension

Wednesday July 8

Thursday October 8

See the flyer here

[http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Limited%20Flyer2009\[2\].pdf](http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/files/pdf/Limited%20Flyer2009[2].pdf)

Find your date and register here

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/events/index.shtml>

Invasive Plant Management

Safety, Identification, Control

Wednesday June 3rd, 2009 - English Creek Preserve

- Off SR 60 and west of County Line Road in the City of Bealsville, Hillsborough County web address:

<http://www.hccfl.edu/departments/ifs/facilities-rental.aspx>

- This workshop is free but space is limited, please register with Carrie Kotal prior to the event, (863) 519-8677 ext 128, kotalc@doacs.state.fl.us.

- CEU's will be available.

See other events at

<http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/events/index.shtml>

On another note

Feeling Lovestruck?

Check out info on lovebugs here.

http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/Pest_ID/biting_and_stinging/lovebugs.shtml

Biological Control for Chilli Thrips

<http://news.ifas.ufl.edu/2009/04/28/predatory-mite-could-put-the-bit-e-on-invasive-crop-pest-uf-researcher-says/>

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Need notice of upcoming training and other info?

Sign up for email newsletter at

http://prohort.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletters/growing_concerns_subscribe.shtml

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http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/reduce_your_use/