



March 14, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Home Depot is pleased to submit the following comments on the March 5, 2007 draft resolution, concerning fertilizer use and water quality.

Available scientific evidence does not support limiting the types of fertilizers available in retail markets. Such a restriction of consumer choice is likely to have no measurable effect on water quality. In fact, studies show that most individual homeowners under-fertilize their lawns. Preventing fertilizers on impervious surfaces appears to be the most effective way to improve water quality.

Moreover, we ask that you not prohibit fertilization during the summer months. Strong turf is an important filtering device in the urban and suburban environment. Erosion can occur without sufficient fertilization, allowing soil to move into the water. This can cause a significant reduction in water quality. There is a large body of information that confirms that regardless of soil type, turf traps and uses nutrients. Whether it is the warm sands of Florida, cold sands of Rhode Island, or clay soils of Pennsylvania, there is a book of knowledge supporting the value of turfgrass.

It is our understanding the State of Florida is considering a new proposed rule that would address many concerns of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. We ask that you consider giving the new statewide rule a chance impact the current situation before taking steps to restrict the choices available to homeowners and other consumers.

Thank you.

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The Home Depot, Inc.