

Progress Report to FORCE July 5, 2004

Training in Production and Utilization of Composts for Florida

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Part 1 - Work performed during the reporting period

- A. A total of 85 people from related fields attended the May 5, 2004 compost workshop at University of Florida/SWFREC, Immokalee. The workshop included lectures, compost blower truck demonstration and a tour of R&D Soil Builder, Inc.
- B. Mr. Rod Tyler from Filtrexx, Inc. was invited to speak in "Controlling erosion with compost" at the compost training in Immokalee. Amerigrow Recycling, Inc. covered the expenses of Mr. Tyler including airfare, hotel, rental car and daily per diem.
- C. Participants received all the lecture information, a list of speakers, and compost websites on a CD. The CD's are also available to Extension agents, IFAS, FAMU researchers, RFT members, NRCS agents, commercial and organic growers, Fla. State regulators, and others in the Fla. waste industry that did not attend the training.
- D. Extra CD's from the Immokalee compost training were distributed to members of RFT during the annual meeting in St. Petersburg, FL.
- E. Color brochures (400) and digital e-mail flyer/invitations with the agenda were mailed to waste industry (RFT), citrus, vegetable, ornamental & turf growers, dairy, horse & poultry manure handlers, organic growers, DEP, NRCS, and the water district to attend the June 23, 2004 training in Quincy, North Florida.

- F. A total of 60 people from related fields attended the compost workshop of June 23, 2004 at University of Florida/North FREC, Quincy. The workshop included lectures, a visit to a sod grower using mushroom compost, a tour of Quincy Farms and a mushroom compost facility in Quincy.
- G. Since the grant doesn't cover the lunch for the attendees a \$300 donation was solicited from Quincy Farms a mushroom compost facility in Quincy.
- H. Training CCE and CCA and units were solicited from the Extension Service for the citrus, vegetable, turf and ornamental growers as continuing education for their licenses. Also we got Florida and International SWANA CCE units for the Quincy training.

Part 2 - Work scheduled for the next reporting period

- A. Start preparation for the training of September 15, 2004 at Sumter County.
- B. Produce brochure, CD's training, pre and post-test and up-date the mailing list for the September 15, 2004 training.