

Proceedings of the Workshop

**Reconciling Productivity and Environmental
Stewardship: The Challenge of Production
Horticulture in the BMP Era**

Sponsored by
ASHS Plant Nutrient Management Working Group (PNM)
[formerly Mineral Nutrition Working Group (MNUT)]

19 July 2005
Las Vegas, Nevada

Reconciling Productivity and Environmental Stewardship: The Challenge of Production Horticulture in the BMP Era

Introduction to the Workshop

Carolyn DeMoranville and Eric Simonne

Fertilization and irrigation have long been a part of production practices for all horticultural crops. With the recent development of environmental concerns and the increased scrutiny of non-point sources of pollution, the approach to fertilization and irrigation practices has to be reconsidered. From practices of combined empirical/research origin aiming at maximizing yield and often regarded as “inexpensive insurance,” the goal of irrigation and fertilization management is now to maximize production while minimizing environmental impact. This paradigm shift in cultural practices also requires a paradigm shift on university’s role and recommendation: how can the land grant universities walk the fine line between their research-based, education-only historical mission and at the same time get actively involved in regulatory issues that passionately affect today’s society? Through specific examples of the ornamental and citrus (*Citrus* spp.) industries in Florida, the cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) industry in Massachusetts, and the vegetable industries in California, Canada, and Florida, the objectives of this workshop were to 1) present different approaches for best management practice (BMP) development, 2) expose the opportunities and challenges set forth by the BMP development process, and 3) describe some specific cultural practices that may be instrumental in improving water quality, while maintaining horticultural productivity.