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USDA TO COLLECT DATA ON NURSERY AND FLORICULTURE CHEMICAL USE

SACRAMENTO, CA, February 27, 2007 – U.S growers will have the opportunity to establish facts about agricultural chemical use and integrated pest management practices during the upcoming Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey, conducted by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Some respondents will also be asked to participate in the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey or the Commercial Floriculture Survey.

“The Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey provides California growers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of data on production, chemical use and pest management practices,” says Vic Tolomeo, Director, USDA-NASS California Field Office. “The information supplied by operators will provide accurate, real-world data to help government agencies and others make sound business decisions about the future availability of crop protection products.”

Between early March and mid-July 2007, NASS representatives will contact a sample of growers to arrange face-to-face interviews. Participation in this survey is crucial. By providing timely and accurate information on chemical use, growers can help ensure continued access to the chemicals they need. The data will provide the statistics used to conduct risk analysis on environmental impact and worker exposure to chemicals. Additionally, it will assist industry organizations and federal agencies in analyzing the economic impact of chemical use and in improving product labeling.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is kept confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national summary statistics to ensure that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

Survey responses will be compiled in the NASS publication, *Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Summary*, to be released in December 2007. This report will be available on our website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. If you wish to receive a paper copy of this or any completed NASS publication, please call 1-800-727-9540.

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