

MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**RECOMMENDATION OF A SITE SPECIFIC AGRICULTURAL
MANAGEMENT PRACTICE**

Robert Hoffbauer, President
Julius Roehrs Company
Block , Lot ; 90+/- acres
Township of Howell

Board Member Stuart offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Right to Farm Act, N.J.S.A. 4:1C-1 et seq. and State Agriculture Development Committee regulations, N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3, a commercial farm owner or operator may make a request to the County Agriculture Development Board (hereinafter "Board") to determine if his or her operation constitutes a generally accepted agricultural management practice; and,

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2003, Robert Hoffbauer, president of Julius Roehrs Company in Howell Township, made a request in writing to the Board for the development of a site-specific agriculture management practice (hereinafter, "AMP") for the continued utilization of the property for an exotic nursery and greenhouse operation, and tree farm and nursery; and,

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2003, Robert Hoffbauer provided proof to the Board that his agricultural operation is a commercial farm as defined at N.J.S.A. 4:1-C-3 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.1; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-3(c), the Board advised the Township of Howell and the State Agriculture Development Committee respectively on October 2, 2003 and October 9, 2003 of Robert Hoffbauer's request; and,

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2003, Harriet Honigfeld and Matt Shipkey, MCADB staff, Bill Potter, MCADB Vice-Chairman, Richard Obal, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agricultural Extension Agent, and Janice Reid, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist conducted a site inspection of Julius Roehrs Company; and,

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2003, at its regular meeting, the Board was presented with the findings of the site inspection and heard from the applicant; and,

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2003, the Board conducted a hearing on the application for a site specific AMP recommendation for Julius Roehrs Company; and,

WHEREAS, based on the evidence presented, the Board makes the following findings of fact:

1. The 90+/- acre farm management unit is located in Howell Township at Block , Lots ; and,
2. Julius Roehrs Company is a commercial farm as defined in N.J.S.A. 4:1C-3 and N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.1, in that it is five acres or more, currently produces field crops worth \$2,500 or more annually and satisfies the eligibility criteria for differential property tax assessment pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964; and,
3. Julius Roehrs Company has been in operation since 1971; and,
4. Applicant intends to continue to utilize the property for an exotic nursery and greenhouse operation, and that, currently, approximately 68 acres of the property are devoted to a tree farm and nursery, an additional 10 acres are devoted to greenhouse operations for the growing of plants/ornamentals, the trees, shrubs and plants are sold on a wholesale basis, retail basis and utilized in the operator's indoor landscaping business, the remaining 12 acres of the property consist of woodlands (unrelated to the tree farm and nursery), which provide landscaping and buffering from the neighboring properties and open space areas are utilized for storage; and,
5. The operator is currently discussing the sale of an approximately 65 acre portion of the property, and in the event of the sale and development of this portion of the property, the operator intends to continue the greenhouse operations, as existing, and the tree farm and nursery in a reduced capacity; and,

WHEREAS, Harriet Honigfeld, MCADB staff, sought the assistance of Richard Obal, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agricultural Extension Agent, and Janice Reid, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist, in the determination of generally accepted agriculture management practices and standards relating to the care and maintenance of a commercial greenhouse operation and tree farm and nursery, which practices and standards were presented to the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines that the care and maintenance of the commercial greenhouse operation and tree farm and nursery as it is currently conducted constitutes a generally accepted agriculture management practice; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board shall forward a copy of its written recommendation of the site-specific AMP to Robert Hoffbauer of Julius Roehrs Company, the SADC, the Township of Howell and any other individuals or organizations deemed appropriate by the Board, within 30 days of the recommendation.

Seconded by Mr. Holland and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Bullock				X
Mr. Buscaglia				X
Mr. Holland	X			
Mr. Hom	X			
Mr. Illmensee				X
Mr. McCarthy	X			
Mr. McCormack	X			
Mr. Potter	X			
Mr. Puglisi	X			
Mr. Rifkin	X			
Mr. Stuart	X			

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolution of the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board on December 3, 2003, and memorialized on January 7, 2004.

Richard Obal, Secretary