FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2013

Media Contact:
Stephanie Sherman
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
info@sarasotabay.org

SBEP REMINDS RESIDENTS TO USE SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER IN THE SPRING AND NO FERTILIZER DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

SARASOTA, FL – In accordance with Sarasota and Manatee County urban fertilizer ordinances, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) reminds residents to use fertilizers with a minimum of 50 percent slow-release nitrogen if they fertilize their lawn or flower beds during the spring. Slow-release products (also called controlled release or timed release) feed lawns and plants gradually and for a longer period of time. They are more easily absorbed by the plants and less likely to become stormwater runoff after heavy rains.

The SBEP also reminds residents that local ordinances prohibit fertilizer application in the summer months from June 1 through September 30. Using too much fertilizer has an adverse impact on water quality and aquatic life because of the high amount of nitrogen and phosphorus. Learn more by visiting the Be Floridian website at befloridian.org or the SBEP website at sarasotabay.org.

-30-

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring the area’s greatest natural asset—Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 protected estuaries in the U.S. The SBEP was founded in 1989 and its partners include Sarasota County, Manatee County, City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, Town of Longboat Key, Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.