

# ESMERALDA FARMS BEGINS USING **AiroCide** TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST QUALITY FLOWERS

**January 11, 2005** --- Esmeralda Farms has begun using the **AiroCide** airborne pathogen-killing technology to create the cleanest environment possible in its headquarters and distribution center in Miami, FL.

After studying the technology in both his in vitro plant propagation lab in Ecuador and the Miami facility, Peter Ullrich, Chairman of Esmeralda Farms, said of the results "we call that significant."

A clinical study was conducted in the Pre-cooler at Esmeralda Farms' facility in Miami. The results show a significant reduction in airborne pathogens after using **AiroCide** for just 24 hours and airborne mold was reduced by 95.45% in 72 hours.

The test follows similar positive results found by Esmeralda researchers at their in vitro propagation laboratory in Ecuador. After operating the **AiroCide** system in the lab for four weeks, airborne mold/fungi levels were reduced to zero and airborne bacteria was measured at just 2.5 cm<sup>3</sup> (colonies per cubic meter), a reduction of 100% and 98% respectively.

**AiroCide**, a NASA-developed technology, is the most advanced and effective airborne pathogen reduction system available and kills botrytis, powdery mildew and other pathogens common and harmful to the floral industry. Previous studies have shown the technology can extend the vase life of flowers dramatically.

**AiroCide** is the only air treatment system that, after killing the microorganisms it comes in contact with, completely destroys them. **AiroCide** is not a filter, so it does not gather or collect harmful organisms. It is a unique combination of ultraviolet light and hydroxyl radicals inside the unit that destroys bacteria, viruses, molds and other pathogens.

Clinical studies involving **AiroCide** technology have documented airborne mold levels reduced up to 99%, with bacteria levels reduced as much as 100% in various environments. In addition, the technology breaks down and removes volatile organic compounds (VOC's) like ethylene gas.

**AiroCide** contains the same technology that is used in all AiroCide products that serve multiple industries and applications and is marketed by Surrey Diagnostics Limited in the UK and Ireland.

**AiroCide** is an FDA Class II Medical Device and has the EC mark.

Esmeralda Farms is a market leader in the floral industry based in Miami, Florida. Esmeralda is the only South American importer that only sells products produced by its wholly owned and operated farms in Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Peru.

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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