



P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**Carolina IGA Stores To Introduce  
100% Degradable Plastic Grocery Bag**

March 17, 2008

**Lake City, SC** - W. Lee Flowers and Company announced today that they would introduce a new 100% degradable plastic grocery bag, which is reusable and recyclable, into Columbia, SC area IGA Stores. This environmentally responsible plastic bag is based upon oxo-biodegradable technology and will start to degrade after the expiry date. When disposed of in landfill, soil or compost, the degraded fragments will ultimately biodegrade in the presence of oxygen, microorganisms, heat and humidity.

Henry Johnson, President of W. Lee Flowers said when introducing the bag, "To our knowledge, this will be the first Oxo-biodegradable plastic grocery bag introduced in a major supermarket chain in the US. We are excited to be leading the industry in finding a way to minimize the environmental footprint from our business. Over the next several months we will evaluate the effectiveness of this bag to determine its performance and customer reaction to this environmentally friendly initiative. We think this is a big step in the right direction and we believe it to be superior to either traditional plastic or paper bags."

The bag is manufactured using TDPA® (Totally Degradable Plastic Additive) technology, developed by EPI Environmental Products, Inc., based in Vancouver, BC, Canada. EPI is the global leader in oxo-biodegradable technology and their TDPA has been used in many plastic products in over 50 countries around the world for several years, including plastic shopping bags in Europe, Asia, South America, Australia, and others.

W. Lee Flowers and Company, founded in 1922 is based in Lake City, SC. The company operates or supplies 90 IGA and independent supermarkets in the Carolinas and Georgia.

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