

RAIN BIRD AUSTRALIA -
a proud distributor of



turf, golf and ag irrigation
products across Australia.

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**Have you enrolled in the
RBA Rewards Program?
It's FREE to join!**

Earn points when you purchase
qualifying Rain Bird turf products
and redeem for free merchandise
and holidays.

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Water saving initiatives

Welcome to our summer edition of the RBA newsletter.

You will find inside a follow up to our August article on Downs Nursery – one of the largest wholesale nurseries on the East Coast – who are demonstrating that by using state of the art technology, not only can you manage your business more efficiently, but you can also save water! This project highlights the sorts of opportunities that prevail for our industry even in these times of rapidly diminishing water supplies.

Also in this issue, you will note our promotion of the ESP-M/RSD combo. The convenience of the top selling contractor controller, the ESP-Modular, with the proven RSD rain sensor just makes good sense! Not only in Melbourne, where rain sensors or moisture sensors are now mandatory on all new installations – but why wouldn't we offer a rain sensor on every system we sell, mandatory or not?

On our back page, we have highlighted one of the new and innovative products from the Rain Bird® Xerigation® range – the Quick Check Basket Filter – an innovative product designed to reduce labour and maintenance costs as well as offer superior protection for drip and micro installations. The Xerigation® range are simple to use, reliable and durable low-volume irrigation products. The filter is one of a range of products we are offering for the first time in Australia. Other products include 3/4" & 1" Control Zone kits – which come in various configurations including the Low Flow Valve, pressure regulation (*see back page*) and either the regular RBY filter, or back flush filter; as well as retrofit kits – that can be dropped into any 1804, 1806 or 1812 spray-head to quickly convert a spray system to drip irrigation. Details can be found on our web-site (www.rainbird.com.au) – just click on the link to Rain Bird Corporation USA, and type in Control Zone Components in the search box. Pricing is in our new price list being distributed in November.

From all of us at Rain Bird Australia, we wish you a prosperous season and a happy new year!



The ESP-M/RSD combo

Tim Bonifant,
General Manager - Rain Bird Australia.

Water course set

In Sydney's western suburbs preparation for the opening of Downes Wholesale Nursery's new site is picking up pace. The irrigation system is well in hand, as Warren Downes explains.

With its opening only weeks away, Downes' Wholesale Nursery's new Theresa Park facility is being fitted with a state-of-the-art irrigation system designed specifically for the 58-hectare site on Sydney's western fringe.

More than three kilometres of 200-millimetre and 150mm PVC main line have been laid for the irrigation system and a sophisticated pump station is ready to be commissioned in the next few days.

Being freshly dug, the dam has a lot of suspended particles in the water so before the irrigation can be used it has to be settled.

Rather than set up an expensive injection system to add flocculent, Downes' Wholesale Nursery has used a non-toxic polymer-based brick flocculent which simply needs water flowing over it.

Joining RBA Rewards is very rewarding!

With the peak selling season now upon us, there is no better time than now to quickly accumulate RBA Rewards points that you can exchange for over 400 items - like digital video cameras, home gym or holiday destinations around the world.

The program is free to join and you earn points when you purchase qualifying Rain Bird turf products.

Take advantage of our triple Rewards Points offer for purchases of Rain Bird 5004 rotors (see back page).

Visit RBA Rewards online today at www.rainbird.com.au or call Rain Bird Australia toll free 1800 424 044.

What a Winner! WA irrigation company Total Eden has taken the initiative to offer a tradesman trailer in a prize draw when their contractors enrol in the RBA Rewards Program.



Once the dam has been initially settled, the wetlands area will take over to keep the water clean.

The Rain Bird LF1200 sprinkler heads have been set out in a triangle formation for superior performance in windy conditions.

To tie the irrigation system together and control the solenoids and weather sensors, the business has chosen Rain Bird's SiteControl system, which features a graphic interface which will display a map of the nursery on a computer as well as maps of the pipework and solenoid valves which will be able to be adjusted simply by clicking on their icons.

One thing the Downes have noticed in a lot of nurseries is that the owners are often unaware what their pumps are capable of.

To overcome this, SiteControl can communicate with the pump station to check on available pressure and turn extra valves either on or off during the irrigation cycle to shorten complete cycle times.

SiteControl can also communicate with the nursery's temperature sensors, anemometer and rain tipping bucket

and make adjustments to the irrigation cycle as needed, such as turning on frost control and pausing irrigation during rain.

This all helps to make sure the nursery is using its water wisely.



Irrigation lines are laid well before any above-ground construction begins.

Photo by Warren Downes. Extracts reprinted with kind permission from Australian Horticulture, October 2005 edition.

RBA staff changes

Rain Bird Australia has announced the appointment of Dean Johnson to the position of Turf Sales Specialist for Queensland. Dean, who was previously the Customer Service and Marketing Coordinator at Rain Bird Australia in Tullamarine, will be based in Brisbane. He replaces Troy Barbour who is now Rain Bird Australia Area Manager Golf (Vic, Tas, SA, WA, NZ). Troy will be based in Melbourne. Shaun Sprouster - Turf Sales Specialist, is now responsible for NSW/ACT/NT. Brad Fawcett has resigned from Rain Bird Australia and has taken up a position with Rain Bird International in Dubai.

Guy Hoffensetz has been appointed to the position of Agricultural Area Manager (Asia & Pacific - Rain Bird International). Guy will continue to service and market Rain Bird's expanding agricultural irrigation products both here and in the Asia/Pacific region.

Outback city saves water & River Murray

Efficient water use and reducing the strain on the River Murray have been high on Port Augusta City Council's agenda and, with the official opening of its waste water reuse plant on Monday, October 24, the Council is proving the two can be achieved. After five years of planning, the Council is now watering a number of its parks and gardens using treated waste water through its own plant and infrastructure.

The result is far greener parks and gardens using nearly half as much water, with the added advantage of substantially reducing the amount of effluent water pumped into Spencer Gulf.

The innovative scheme involves the treatment of waste water at a plant located at Central Oval, the monitoring of water levels and delivery of water through a computerised Central Control Rain Bird watering system, and the sub-

surface irrigation system, designed and installed by Greene Eden Watering Systems.

The raw waste is sewer-mined from the SA Water sewerage pump station on Seaview Road and is pulverised and then pumped to the Central Oval treatment plant.

This makes it the only water re-use scheme where sewer mining from the sewer mains is occurring in South Australia, giving it the benefit of establishing the infrastructure close to where the watering occurs. It is estimated the new Rain Bird computerised watering system will save about 20% of water used on Port Augusta's parks and gardens, and the sub-surface drip irrigation system will provide another 30% water saving. As well as saving around 50% of water, the new irrigation system is also expected to reduce maintenance costs to a minimum, with on-going sprinkler vandalism no longer an



The SA state Premier Mike Rann (centre), Nick Moschis (left) - Rain Bird International, and Andrew Townsend - Rain Bird Australia, at the commissioning of the waste water re-use plant.

issue because plants are watered at root level via the sub-surface drip irrigation pipe.

The system installed is a Rain Bird Site Control. This is linked to a Rain Bird weather station that measures wind speed, rainfall and temperature. The system factors in weather conditions and moisture levels detected via soil moisture sensors, and responds accordingly, delivering the amount of water required via the sub surface irrigation system.

In total, 48,621m² of turf is being watered as part of the scheme, as well as a further 7,161m² of landscaped areas.



Partners in Water Conservation

Convenience both in one box at a price savings!
The Rain Bird® ESP Modular Controller and RSD Rain Sensor team up for superior water savings.

- Four irrigation cycle modes for maximum flexibility and compliance with all major watering restrictions.
- Global seasonal adjust (0 – 200%) allows the user to alter the run time of all the valves in every program with the push of a button.
- Dedicated sensor terminals allow the user to easily connect a sensor to the controller for maximum water efficiency.
- Longer station run times add more flexibility for special applications such as drip.

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If you have any news, photos or comments on Rain Bird products or services, please write to the Editor.

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Product of the Month

Rain Bird Quick Check Basket Filter



Quick Check Basket Filter

Drastically reduce hours of labour by installing the new Quick Check Basket Filter. This innovative new filter offers superior protection with the convenience of an indicator that tells you when the filter needs to be cleaned. During regular operation, the Quick Check indicator bubble remains a vibrant green.

When debris accumulates to a level where significant pressure loss occurs, the indicator bubble switches to bright red. (Indicator only shows red during system operation). The indicator bubble and cap offer 'jar top' convenience for easy access and high visibility. The filter's recessed basket design allows for easy access to the filter element and prevents debris from entering the line during cleaning.

Pressure-Regulating Filter (RBY or Back Flush Filter)

Unique, compact unit that combines filtration and pressure regulation in one unit for protection of downstream components in a low-volume irrigation system.



- The Pressure-Regulating (P/R) Filter reduces the number of components in a control zone, making it smaller and easier to install. More control zones can fit in one valve box!
- Combination unit reduces the number of connections, making installation easier & faster.
- The P/R Filter provides increased reliability--fewer parts and fewer threaded connections mean less chance of a leak both at installation and also over the life of the system.

Triple RBA Reward Points Special Offer



Make a purchase of 5004 Rain Bird turf rotors (full or part circle) and we will reward you with **triple RBA Reward points!** For example: **Base Points** - you will earn 300 points for every \$1000 of eligible purchases. **Triple Points** - you will earn **900 points** for every \$1000 of eligible purchases.

So the more you buy, the faster you get to redeem those merchandise awards or a holiday for Christmas!

If you are not enrolled, simply call 1800 424 044. Enrolment is free.

RBA Rewards
Rain Bird Australia Rewards Program

*Conditions: Offer valid from 1/10/05, can be withdrawn at anytime. You must be enrolled in the RBA Rewards Program to qualify. Triple points only valid for purchase of 5004 part circle and 5004 full circle rotors. Applies only to base points. Premier contractor bonus points remain unchanged. Subject to terms and conditions of the RBA Rewards. Offer not valid with any other discounts or promotions.