## MAINTENANCE

## Digital Cyclone to offer Doppler radar for cell phones

Motorola and Digital Cyclone have developed a weather radar application for Java technologyenabled Motorola mobile phones.

Digital Cyclone's Mobile My-Cast weather application uses a network of high-resolution

weather models and personalized radar imagery to help weather-sensitive businesses make better decisions. Users can receive current conditions, a nine-hour or seven-day forecast, and notifications regarding severe weather for their specific locations on their Motorola mo-

bile handsets.

"Mobile My-Cast is a planning tool that can help businesses make the correct weather-based decisions," said Paul Douglas, chairman and founder of Digital Cyclone and chief meteorologist with WCCO-TV in Minneapolis. "It is often difficult for weather-

sensitive businesses to provide relevant weather information to employees off site. This application helps isolates the forecast within a few blocks and provides real-time radar for their precise locations, helping mobile workers remain productive."

Users of the Motorola i90c,

i85s, and i50sx handsets can download Mobile My-Cast wirelessly at www.nextel.com/ idenupdate. There is a subscription charge of \$14.95 per month to use the service.



cell phone

## Water conservation

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percent compared with similar courses that use cool-season grasses.

Improved cultivars of seashore paspalum developed by turfgrass breeders at the University of Georgia are extremely salt-tolerant grass and can be irrigated with high-salt or brackish waters with little negative effect on turf quality. Cultivars are available for greens, tees, fairways and roughs, and some of these varieties can be irrigated with water directly from the ocean.

Research on other improved varieties is ongoing. Work is being undertaken on zoysiagrass (Texas A&M), saltgrass (Colorado State and Arizona State universities), annual bluegrass (Minnesota and Penn State universities), alkaligrass (Loft's Seed), fairway crested wheatgrass (Utah State University), colonial bentgrass (University of Rhode Island) and on a number of grass species at Rutgers University. This research, along with breeding work being done at other commercial seed companies, will provide new turf varieties for golf courses that reduce water use and pesticide use for decades to come.

## **NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES**

New irrigation system technology also has improved water-use efficiency on golf courses. Superintendents can reduce over-irrigation by using onsite weather stations, weather reporting services and other resources to determine accurate daily water-replacement needs. There also is a considerable effort being made to adapt various types of sensors to evaluate turf soil moisture-replacement needs, including tensiometers, porous blocks, heat-dissipation blocks, neutron probes and infrared thermometry.

In the meantime, using state-ofthe-art computerized control systems, portable hand-held controllers and variable frequency-drive pumping systems remains the most efficient way to reduce water and energy consumption. For example, the Southern California Golf Association Members Club

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