'Water Right Campaign' Hits $500,000
THANKS TO TWO $15,000 CONTRIBUTIONS

Rolling Meadows, IL - Pledges of $15,000 each by Seed Research of Oregon/Seed Solutions and Jacklin Seed, A Div. of J.R. Simplot Co., have pushed the International Turf Producers Foundation's 'Water Right Campaign' over its $500,000 goal.

Multi-year pledges and one-time contributions will raise more than $527,000 to support landscape water related research and education. There are now nine turf industry vendors who have become 'Water Right Champions.'

In making his firm's pledge, Bill Dunn, vice president of Seed Research of Oregon said, "We are proud to be a corporate sponsor of this campaign because we believe water issues will be at the forefront of the green industry this century."

Bill Junk, president of SRO's sister company Seed Solutions added, "We are very concerned about the lack of understanding about water usage and hope that our involvement will help bring about a careful balance between conservation and beneficial water usage."

Representing Jacklin Seed, Gayle Jacklin said, "We are pleased to become a Water Right sponsor and feel it is important that members become more involved in local water policy decision-making. There is a real need for further research and education in this area and we support those efforts."

When the 'Water Right Campaign' was kicked-off in December, 1999, ITPF officials encouraged broad-based contributions to raise funds for water-related research, dissemination of documented water-use facts and landscape water conservation recommendations and new information to address water quality and availability issues.

WATER RIGHT - Conserving Our Water, Preserving Our Environment, a 64-page book targeted at helping educate water-policy decision makers has been the most visible product of the campaign thus far. In addition, water-related research grants totaling more than $70,000 have been awarded in the early stages of the campaign.

SRO/Seed Solutions and Jacklin Seed now join the following 'Water Right Champions': Brouwer Turf Equipment, Bucyrus Equipment Company, Conwed Plastics, Kesmac, Inc., Moffett Mounty by Cargotec, Pennington Seeds and Progressive Turf Equipment.

For more information about making a tax-deductible contribution to the Water Right Campaign, contact ITPF at 1855-A Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 or call 1-800-405-8873.

Editor's Note
Ottawa will give The Canadian Water Network, a University of Waterloo based research group, $15 million to find remedies to Canada's declining water resources. Another $14 million has been pledged in cash or services from industry and other government agencies.

The Canadian Water Network will include 175 researchers from 38 universities, 29 companies and 40 government agencies across Canada. Dr. Robert Gilham, the Network's Scientific Director, said the study will include quality, safety, availability of water resources, outbreaks of water-borne diseases, long term effects of changing land use, global climate change and the possibility of bulk water exports. A hot issue will be manure management with respect to groundwater and surface water supplies.

Research in Canada will be available to countries around the world facing similar and also more severe problems. Note that 18% of the world's population does not have safe drinking water. There are two million deaths per year and 8.3 billion cases of illnesses related to unsafe drinking water.

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