

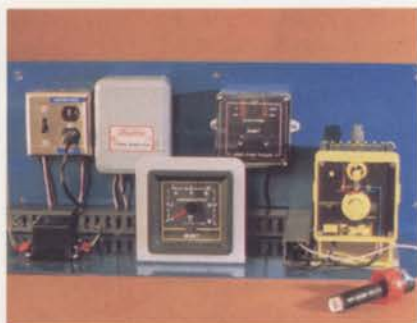
P.P.M. Unit is an economical, heavy duty fixed-pulse pump that provides accurate time-proportioned applications.

Bill Black at Congressional Country Club in Potomac, Md., has been using AquaGro since 1964 and The Little Squirt System since 1985.

"We're using it to do away with localized dry spots," he says. "We give the turf a good squirt at the beginning of the year to get AquaGro into the soil. Then we come back in June and July with a light application."

Black used to hand-water greens to treat localized dry spots. But, with the efficiency and convenience of The Little Squirt System, he's found that he can expand his use of AquaGro.

"The Little Squirt got rid of the inconvenience of putting the AquaGro on with a sprayer," he notes. "We figured that—what the heck—if it works



The Little Squirt System.

on greens, it can work on fairways too."

Bob Ribbans, superintendent at Foresgate Country Club in Jamesburg, N.J. favors the simpler P.P.M. unit.

"We set it on top of a 52-gallon drum of AquaGro, plugged into a 24-

hour timer," notes Ribbans. "It takes absolutely no labor to inject the wetting agent—just 20 or 30 minutes to (initially) install the unit. The labor saving is incredible, and it's all applied in the evening so you don't have to disturb the golfers."

Ribbans claims that he can visually see the difference in his turf.

"Our east course is real hilly, and our west course has heavy soil. So the east course puddles easily and the other drains fast," he notes. "Since wetting agents work both ways—to help eliminate puddling and promote drainage—it makes both courses healthier and more attractive."

The Little Squirt and P.P.M. Units—take your choice—make applying a product with proven effectiveness even more economical, efficient and convenient.



Chris McCarron: nice result with SuperSorb.

WATER ON DEMAND WITH POLYMERS

Water-absorbent polymers, relatively new products of agronomic science, can help maximize a landscape's beauty and minimize maintenance requirements by controlling water availability to plants.

Once water has penetrated the soil surface surrounding a plant, it needs to be made available as the plant uses



SuperSorb provides controlled water availability in the landscape.

it—in the right amount, at the right time. Water absorbents help make this possible.

During periods of high precipitation, water-absorbent polymers gather and store extra water, thus helping alleviate waterlogging and providing a store of water for later use. Then, as the soil dries, the polymers

can release stored water to the plant as needed.

Water absorbent polymers consist of molecules with the same electrical charge. When water touches a water-absorbent, the electrical charge causes the absorbent's molecules to push away from each other. As this happens, water molecules are drawn

into the particles. The captured moisture is then released from the water-absorbent as the rootzone dries, thus providing a consistent water source.

Water absorbents provide controlled water availability in the landscape, hanging baskets and nursery liners. They are also helpful when installing sod to minimize plant stress and maximize water efficiency. SuperSorb, a popular water absorbent among landscape managers, provides a rootzone reservoir that yields healthier, faster-growing plants while reducing irrigation costs.

"Watering is not a real attainable goal because of other priorities" at Sesame Place Park in Langhorne, Pa.,

says landscape manager Chris McCarron. So he uses SuperSorb • C in annual flower beds, topiary gardens and hanging flower baskets.

"We have no automatic irrigation system whatsoever; we're relegated to using what moisture's in the soil," McCarron says. "We till SuperSorb into annual beds that have been typically dry, and we're able to get a nice result in places where previously moisture was a problem. SuperSorb really works out well."

SuperSorb, which is available in two particle sizes, is applied during the installation of trees, shrubs, turf, planters, flower beds and landscape islands. They are fast and easy to use, whether installing ornamentals, sod

or seeding.

SuperSorb • C, a more coarse particle (1-2 mm), is easily incorporated into backfill or soil when transplanting ornamentals. SuperSorb • F, a fine particle (less than 0.5 mm), is broadcast and tilled two to three inches into the soil before transplanting sod or seeding.

"I used SuperSorb (F) when we installed the sod on our driving range," notes Bill Foust, superintendent at Pine Lake Golf Club in Anderson, S.C. "You can tell the difference. With SuperSorb, you get better growth, a better root system. And if you've got a better root system, you'll have better color."

"I'm real happy with the results."



Jim Moreau, chemicals supervisor at Church Landscape, readies evergreens for winter with FoliCote.

PROTECTING PLANTS FROM STRESS

There are some situations when a plant cannot absorb enough moisture through its root system to compensate for moisture loss through the foliage. In such cases, transpiration minimizers can help.

FoliCote, one kind of anti-transpirant, holds moisture in the leaves when plants are under stress caused by transplanting or transporting them,

or when the ground is frozen. FoliCote helps protect plants from moisture stress by maintaining the balance of moisture within the plant. It works by temporarily blocking leaf stomates, which reduces transpiration loss from the plant.

"I recommend it for routine maintenance of broadleaf evergreens, especially rhododendrons and azaleas,"

says Bob Hansen, a landscape architect from Westtown, N.Y. "In the past, our yews were desiccating and dropping all their needles. Now that we treat them with FoliCote, they look a lot better in the spring."

"We usually apply during the latter part of October or the first of November, and then sometimes re-apply around February, depending on (the harshness of) the weather."

FoliCote is a thin film of wax that stays flexible and looks natural. It can be used when transplanting or transporting trees, shrubs, sod, liners, foliage plants and ground covers, or for protecting established ornamentals and turfgrass from winter desiccation.

"We've been using FoliCote for five years now," says John Mitten of Church Landscape in Lombard, Ill. "We're strong believers in using it in early winter or late fall to guard against winter burn. We also use it in the summer to guard against moisture loss."

Mitten says FoliCote "makes the plant look a lot better and puts it in a lot better shape come springtime."

Since Church Landscape is so quality-oriented, they don't always charge for the FoliCote-ing service.

"Sometimes we do it just because it helps keep our plants alive," says Mitten. "It's a judgement call."

FoliCote is easy to handle. It won't clog sprayers and it washes out of spray equipment with soap and warm water. It is also less expensive—about half the cost—as competitive products.

In short, FoliCote is easy and inexpensive, a combination that's hard to beat.