

A sprinkling of great products

BY CURT HARLER / CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

While there is great care to avoid system failures when installing sprinkler heads and emitters, Norm Mueller of I.S.A., Inc. finds that not cleaning out irrigation lines is the biggest problem. "It's more an issue with PVC than poly," he says.

Mueller, of Phoenix, AZ, is the Southwest representative for Bowsmith. Bowsmith's emitters are widely used in government and commercial applications. Much of the water in the Southwest is either reclaimed or loaded with calcium. Either the system has to be filtered or it must use emitters which can handle "thick" water.

"We see about 70% of our commercial applications using threaded emitters with PVC pipe," he says. Most of the residential applications are done with smaller emitters on poly.

It's not unusual to see some leakage when a system is first turned up. Mueller says it's not usually a continual problem in systems with barbed emitters. "Pressure from the line will push the barb up against the inside of the tubing wall," he says, which seals the leak. With

threaded systems, the seal is more positive and there should be less leakage.

To minimize damage or vandalism, Mueller likes to see as little of the emitter poking up as possible. "Run the spaghetti right up to the base of the plant and only have two or three inches sticking up," he advises.

Whether the application calls for emitters or sprinkler heads, there are many good choices available from various vendors.

BOWSMITH 800/BOWSMITH

mail@bowsmith.com

The Fan-Jet Microsprinkler from Bowsmith, Exeter, CA, provides high spray trajectories, consistent and larger wetting patterns and low cost in a water-saving, low-flow device. Heads are available in 18 wetting patterns. Color-coded nozzles in seven sizes offer wide customization possibilities. The company also makes nonstop drip emitters with continuous flushing action to get rid of slime and small particles. Emitters are available in 0.6, 1.0 and 2.0 gallon/hour models.

Circle no. 258



◀ Bowsmith's microsprinkler

Irrigation tips

- ▶ **Look for water-saving heads**
- ▶ **Keep sprinkler lines clean**
- ▶ **Reset controllers monthly during summer**
- ▶ **Reset controllers quarterly other times**

FLOPPY SPRINKLER

27/13752-4252

www.floppysprinkler.com

The Floppy Sprinkler, from Floppy Sprinkler Ltd., Nelspruit, South Africa, has a plastic nipple on which a flexible silicone tube is mounted. When water passes through the tube, it snakes to and fro, rotating 360 degrees, forming even droplets. **Circle no. 259**

HUNTER INDUSTRIES

800/733-2823

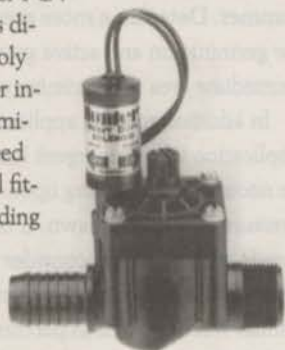
www.hunterindustries.com

Simplify installation of poly pipe irrigation systems with the new male x barb fitting for the Hunter PGV

Valve. It slips directly onto poly pipe for faster installation, eliminating the need for additional fittings. Depending on the model, PGV flow rates can be

varied from 1 gpm to 120 gpm. All units are pressure-rated to 150 psi, with high-grade construction.

Circle no. 260



K-RAIN MANUFACTURING

561/844-1002

www.k-rain.com

The Dial-A-Nozzle from K-Rain Manufacturing Corp., Riviera Beach, FL, has four 26-degree standard and four 12-degree low-angle nozzles on the same 5-in. pop-up riser. Flow rates range from 1 gpm to 4 gpm on low-angles, and 1.5 gpm to 6 gpm on standard nozzles. Units have 3/4-in. threaded NPT inlets, arc adjustment from 35-360 degrees, and are pressure rated from 7 to 60 psi.

Circle no. 261

L.R. NELSON CORP.

888/645-7668

www.lrnelson.com

The 8600 EZ Command Remote Programmer from L.R. Nelson Corp. is a full-function programming and operation control unit



that works via radio. Two AA batteries keep time for a year. The 7000 and 7500 Gear Drive Sprinklers from the Peoria, IL firm feature nozzle insertion radius reduction for nozzle installation and diffuser pin adjustment without removing the protective cap.

Circle no. 262

ORBIT IRRIGATION

800/887-TURF

www.orbitirrigation.com

North Salt Lake, UT-based Orbit's new Control Center handles 6, 9 or 12 stations, with water budgeting, system diagnostics and programmable rain delay. In a power outage, the non-volatile program memory saves the schedule, which can range from 1 to 28 days. Four-cycle start times for each program add versatility.

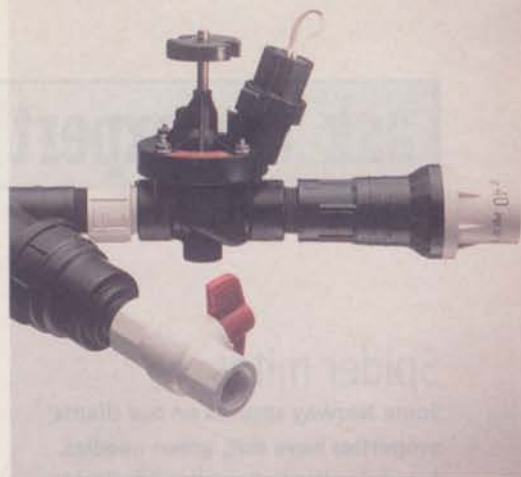
Circle no. 263

RAIN BIRD

626/963-9311

www.rainbird.com

The latest addition to the Rain Bird Xerigation Control Zones is the XCZ-100 COM. This 1-in. control zone for commercial applications has a PEB valve, RBY-C in-line



filter, 40-psi pressure regulator and manual ball valve and fittings. Stainless steel screen elements are available in various mesh sizes. **Circle no. 264**

RAINDRIP

800/544-3747

www.raindrip.com

Raindrip, Simi Valley, CA, can convert existing 1/2-in. underground sprinkler systems to low-flow. Screw off the sprinkler head, screw on a swivel elbow to a 1/2-in. sprinkler riser and attach a 1/2-in. poly hose for slow, even watering. Raindrip says the conversion reduces weed growth, evaporation and saves up to 70% on water.

Circle no. 265

SIGNATURE CONTROL SYSTEMS

949/580-3640

www.signaturecontrolsyste.ms.com

The 286/287 commercial rotor from Signature Control Systems, Irvine, CA, offers better performance and is less expensive than the old Thompson 186/187 line. Its plastic rotor provides more water distribution at a higher pop-up to clear taller grasses. Its design eliminates blow-by and has an adjustable arc nozzle — one of five.

Circle no. 266

TRANSITIONAL SYSTEMS MFG.

530/751-2610

www.transitionalsystems.com

When two or more controllers are connected to a master valve or pump circuit, adding a pump relay to each controller solves some problems, but the Isolator from Transitional Systems, Yuba City, CA, protects by locking out all controllers except one. It handles feedback and phasing problems that arise when controllers are on different "legs" of a 240-volt service.

Circle no. 267