

WORD FROM OUR PARTNER

Rain Bird: Smart Technology for a Better Future

AS THE WORLD'S WATER supply continues to be challenged by population growth, drought and contamination, there's little doubt that the future of the irrigation industry rests upon a very important goal. We must consistently develop and implement new, more efficient systems that maintain healthy landscapes while using as little fresh water as possible. At Rain Bird, we're dedicated to achieving this goal each and every day.

Every new product or service developed at Rain Bird is assessed for its contribution to The Intelligent Use of Water™. At one of the largest indoor irrigation testing facilities in the world, we continually test new and current products for quality and accuracy. As a result, we're developing new products that incorporate the latest "smart" or weather-based technology, helping us provide the most efficient irrigation solutions available on the market today.

In June, Rain Bird introduced its ESP-SMT Smart Control System, a simple-to-use tool that provides weather-based control while saving time, money and water. This control system combines a sophisticated controller with an on-site weather sensor that calculates evapotranspiration rates and deducts actual effective precipitation to determine how much water it should apply to maintain an optimum moisture level in the soil. Until the launch of this product, weather-based controllers were often too expensive and complicated for residential use. The ESP-SMT has changed all that by providing an affordable and accurate level of irrigation control that was formerly out of reach.

October 2009 marked the launch of the newest member of Rain Bird's smart irrigation family—the SMRT-Y Soil Moisture Sensor Kit. After the SMRT-Y (pronounced "smart why") is installed, its digital sensor measures absolute soil moisture levels every ten minutes and relays that information back to the SMRT-Y controller interface. When soil moisture levels are above a pre-determined level, the controller interface interrupts the irrigation schedule that's been programmed into the system's timer. If the sensor recognizes dry soil conditions, the system's next watering cycle will proceed as originally scheduled. This closed-loop feedback process means that actual plant and turf conditions at the roots are being communicated back to the controller for a truly accurate snapshot of a landscape's moisture needs.

In addition to these groundbreaking new products, Rain Bird continues to produce many other water-efficient system components that can make a tremendous impact on the amount of water used for irrigation. From rotary nozzles with matched precipitation rates to rotors with pressure-regulating stems and our patented Rain Curtain Technology, Rain Bird continues to make it easier than ever before to incorporate smart, water-saving practices into any irrigation system.

