

Rain Bird website offers answers

Rain Bird Corporation has launched its enhanced website (www.rainbird.com) enabling user-friendly online access to quality solutions for all types of irrigation applications, says the company.

The site provides immediate access to detailed product specifications, replacement parts, and instruction manuals. In addition, visitors will have access to troubleshooting guides, tips on efficient irrigation, a dealer locator, an online store, a custom design service, and answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding irrigation.

"The site is now more comprehensive and easier to use than most printed materials," says Art Ludwick, vice president of Rain Bird. "We expect that it will be a great resource for professionals seeking helpful tips and solutions about irrigation products or installation issues. We want to assist our customers with



issues that can apply to any landscaping or agricultural project, from backyards to farms to golf courses to sports arenas and public parks."

Rutgers, Japan Tobacco want improved turfgrass

An agreement between Rutgers University and Japan Tobacco will enable Rutgers to develop and commercialize improved turfgrass varieties by using a pioneering plant transformation technology, announced Dr. William Meyer, head of the turfgrass breeding program at Rutgers.

The new technology was developed by Japan Tobacco and modified for use in turfgrass by Dr. Barbara Zilinskas, a plant scientist at the Center for Turfgrass Science and the Biotechnology Center for Agriculture and the Environment at Rutgers. The agreement will also enable the university to sublicense the Japan Tobacco technology, and Rutgers improvements, to research-oriented companies, for use in developing improved transgenic turfgrass varieties. These companies have access to proprietary genes and will use this technology to develop new varieties, which they then will market.

"Long term, we believe that transformation technology will enable us to solve some unsolved pest and disease problems," said Meyer.

The Japan Tobacco transformation technology known as PureIntro employs plasmids derived from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, a bacterium that has the unique ability to insert a portion of its DNA into the cells of plants. For years, scientists thought that this bacterium could transform only dicots, a category of plants that includes soybeans, cotton and tobacco, but not monocots, a category that includes corn, rice or grasses. However, Japan Tobacco scientists found a way to employ *Agrobacterium* in monocots. A Rutgers team led by Dr. Zilinskas has successfully applied PureIntro to turfgrasses.

The Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers is a leading developer of turfgrass in the United States and is headed by Dr. Bruce Clarke, director, and Meyer.

LA Clippers and AT&T donate Sport Court game court to help kids

According to a report from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Education, adolescents are more likely to be active if they have convenient access to play spaces and sports equipment. However, there are children in the Los Angeles area that

have no convenient and safe place to play. That is why Sport Court, Inc. and Sport Court of Los Angeles are supplying four full size courts for AT&T Wireless P.L.A.Y. Safe program.

The Los Angeles Clippers P.L.A.Y. (Playgrounds for Local Active Youth), sponsored by AT&T Wireless, strives to build safe playgrounds and help refurbish basketball courts and hold clinics for children in the Los Angeles area. Each court will be made of the Sport Court Sport Deck IV (SD IV) tiles.

"We are really excited to be a part of this event," says Dale Hendrickson of Sport Court of Southern California. "Sports can be very beneficial for the kids in these areas. Not only does it give them a healthy alternative to trouble, but by playing sports kids build self-esteem and team play, to be a part of this is like helping build those kid's futures."

Chipco launches online product training

The Chipco Professional Products group of Aventis E.S. has launched Chipco Academy, a free online product training program for turfgrass professionals. End-user training on fungicide, herbicide, insecticide, and PGR use is available at www.aventischipco.com.



Each Academy training program consists of information on target pests, product chemistries, benefits, and application procedures. After reviewing the info presented, participants can take an online quiz, then if they complete it successfully, they receive a certificate and a gift from Chipco.



Glenmac Inc, Jamestown, ND, has purchased assets and marketing rights to the Cherrington Corp. line of beach and surface cleaning equipment, and will market the line under its affiliate corporation, Harley Enterprises, Inc. For information call 800-437-9779.