DJC DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE
Portland, Oregon

Green Gadgets 6/18/09

Hunter's MP Rotator sprinkler delivers uniform streams of water for turf, plants

Posted: 04:00 AM PDT Thursday, June 18, 2009
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Although western Oregon gets plenty of rain, water conservation becomes increasingly important when summer arrives.

Hunter Industries of San Marcos, Calif., has used a patented technology to develop a multi-stream sprinkler that the company claims is able to use up to 30 percent less water than a conventional sprinkler.

John Wascher, a product manager with Hunter Industries, said the company's sprinkler heads create efficiency through "distribution uniformity" – spreading the water evenly.

The MP Rotator sprinkler has individual grooves cut into each head, designed to release water different distances. In traditional sprinklers with one hole for water distribution, Wascher said, water is lost through misting, through overwatering or from being blown astray by winds. "The MP Rotator can combat wind because each stream has more energy," he said.

"The MP Rotator system boosts efficiency up to 80 percent," said Wascher, referring to the amount of water that is absorbed and not wasted. "The true magic behind the nozzle is how it delivers the water – at a much lower rate."

The MP Rotator distributes on average about four-tenths of an inch of water per hour, compared with the industry average of about 1 to 1½ inches, Wascher said. The typical absorption rate of a lawn is about three-tenths of an inch per hour. Most lawns need approximately 1½ inches of water per week.

The company has six sprinkler head types with adjustable arcs that range from 90 to 360 degrees.

The systems can be used for turf or plants. Wascher said the company's clients include the South Waterfront neighborhood, Tualatin Water District, the city of Boulder, Colo., and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

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