



Fast paced technological advancements allow home gardeners to holiday stress-free

SMART WATERING CASE STUDY: WATER SUPPLY PRODUCTS

With a long, hot, dry summer stretching ahead, home gardeners will be anxious about keeping their plants and lawns alive while they holiday at their favourite spots.

Luckily, home irrigation systems, products and gadgets have advanced so much that mostly home gardeners will be able to enjoy their time away without the stress of arranging someone to water the plants.

With technology progressing as quickly as it is, home watering systems will soon be able to be managed almost completely from remote locations.

CYBER-RAIN COMING SOON

Next year, it is anticipated that a new class of cloud based controllers will hit the New Zealand market. "These controllers are all the rage in the States and will be available in New Zealand next year," says Martin Payne, general manager of Water Supply Products based in Auckland. "These controllers, called Cyber-Rain, will adjust their programmes automatically based on weather information from internet services."

Cyber-Rain checks the weather and automatically adjusts your irrigation schedule resulting in an average 35% reduction in water use. It can be operated from any device connected to the internet. A Cyber-Rain app lets you control your watering systems from your smart phone which means you can adjust your programme while on the go.

To find out more about Cyber-Rain, [click here](#).

But New Zealanders do not have to wait until Cyber-Rain hits the market to think about water saving in the garden and managing irrigation efficiently. There are already a multitude of products, apps and devices which make managing a garden easier than standing with a hose, or manually turning on and off a sprinkler second guessing if the grass has had enough water.

Sensors, which can either measure the moisture in the soil or the air, are becoming increasingly popular. The sensors allow people to manage their water more carefully, using data as the basis for their decisions. These sensors cleverly read water levels and send signals to the watering systems to slow down or keep going.

The Soil-Clik moisture sensor, marketed by Hunter, works just like soil moisture sensors on farms. It tests the water level in the root zone of the plant and when the soil has reached the desired level of saturation it automatically shuts down irrigation. This is a great way to save water and to manage home irrigation as automatically as possible.

See here for information on the Soil-Clik.

Similar to the Soil-Clik, the Solar Sync sensor calculates evapotranspiration (ET) and sends signals to irrigation controllers daily depending on moisture levels it reads from the air.

It measures both sunlight and temperature, and uses ET to determine the correct seasonal adjustment to send to the controller. The controller then amends the programme to Solar Sync's seasonal adjustment value to modify the water distribution on that day. Pretty SMART!

Read more about the whizz bang features of the Solar Sync Weather Sensor here.

Many sensors, timers and hose controllers can be activated using blue tooth devices and SMART apps. This means the whole irrigation system can be controlled while you are indoors doing other jobs, or even next door catching up with the neighbours.

Galcon has designed Apps for Smartphones and tablets which connect to these various irrigation or water controllers. The controllers communicate with your device using Bluetooth 4.0 and require ultra low energy for communication, ranging from 5 to 30 meters (15 to 90 feet) away (depending on surroundings). This means you can manage your irrigation programme or alter things manually from your phone.

More information can be found here.



Cyber Rain XCI Wi-Fi



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SMART WATERING

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