

Mid Georgia Nursery Meansville, GA

Owner

George Tindall

Irrigation Equipment Supplier

United Irrigation, Quitman, Georgia



Phil Hart was hired as the general manager in 1997.



Bob Jarvis, General Manager, United Irrigation, Quitman, Georgia



For years George Tindall was a neurosurgeon in Atlanta and kept the nursery business on the side. One day in 1997, he turned in his operating scrubs and took over the nursery full time.

Rain Bird® PC Dripline was Just What the Doctor Ordered for Georgia Nursery

With 200 acres of nursery production, all under drip irrigation, Mid Georgia Nursery in Meansville, Georgia is a model of efficiency. At any one time, they could be irrigating out of any one of six ponds or three wells on the property, or they could be propagating, planting, digging, applying fertilizer, or pruning. It takes a well-organized and experienced manager to get everything done. Mid Georgia was fortunate to hire Phil Hart for the job of General Manager back in 1997, and since then has assembled an excellent team to keep up with the diverse activities. "I'm really proud of my group here," boasts George Tindall, Mid Georgia's owner.

"Rain Bird PC Dripline emitters are inserted inside the drip tubing as it is made and are placed three feet apart in order to create a band of wet soil in the tree line to encourage healthier root growth."

A former Atlanta, Georgia neurosurgeon, George Tindall has an interesting background himself. Reflecting on the past few years, George explains: "It was time for me to put aside the hospital life and get into something else that I really enjoy, which is to create an environment for things to grow. Today, I live here at the nursery, and for me, it's a great life."



All of the plants grown in the ground are on drip irrigation, and have been since the beginning.

All of the plants grown in the ground are on drip irrigation, and have been since the beginning. In the past, Mid Georgia used on-line emitters that were six feet apart and delivered one gallon of water per hour to each plant. Today, Rain Bird PC Dripline is used exclusively.

“When I first got here, there was one drip emitter at each tree trunk, and this created a small area of very soft and wet soil,” explains Hart. “When the wind would blow here, the plant would wobble around because the soil was so moist, and I didn’t care for that. The roots would tend to stay in one area when we used one drip emitter at each plant, too.”

The irrigation system at Mid Georgia Nursery was designed and supplied by United Irrigation of Quitman, Georgia. Hart and Tindall both have high praise for United and their knowledge of irrigation products and design. Hart recalls his first contact with United back in 1998: “I had worked with Rain Bird products back at the Princeton nursery, and they had a good track record. When we started talking with United, they suggested Rain Bird and I said ‘great’ because I wanted to stay with the brand that had given me good service in the past. After the system was installed, I could see the wetting pattern and I checked the flow by putting a number of catch cans under the emitters scattered around the fields. Everything was OK then, and still is now.”

Mid Georgia follows a regular irrigation and fertilization schedule, putting down about one-half inch of water per week in the summer. A Rain Bird ESP-MC



Rain Bird ESP-MC Controller

controller handles the pumps and valves, so everything is automatic. The controller even manages the flush cycle of the sand media filter tanks, which saves Mid Georgia the cost of separate electronics for the filter flushing. Hart and irrigator Manuel Hernandez rely on a shovel and their own experience to decide when to begin irrigating in the spring, and to determine when adjustments are

necessary throughout the season. “We dig in the ground and feel the moisture, it is the only way that is 100% reliable for me,” reports Hart.

Mid Georgia is now using timed-release granular fertilizer to evenly provide good plant nutrition throughout the growing season. Hart has observed, however, that because of the way it is applied with the tractor, the granular fertilizer tends to concentrate at the end of the plant rows, and those trees are taller and larger than others in the row. They plan to move to a program of fertilizer injection through the PC Driplines in the future, using venturi-type chemical injection. By applying fertilizer in the irrigation water with pressure-compensating Driplines, each of the plants should get the same fertilizer dose, and more uniform growth.

Hart and Tindall agree that reliability of the various components is key to a successful operation. “If a hydraulic line on your digger goes out, you can’t be sitting around waiting for it to be repaired in a shop—you must have an excellent mechanic on site,” states Tindall. “The same goes with the irrigation system—the parts must work well, and must work all of the time, and we are having good success with our irrigation system from Rain Bird and United Irrigation.”

Rain Bird Agri-Products Co.

633 W. Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741
Phone: (800) 435-5624
Fax: (626) 852-7310

Rain Bird International, Inc.

145 North Grand Avenue
Glendora, CA 91741
Phone: (626) 963-9311
Fax: (626) 963-4287

www.rainbird.com

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