



GARDEN

**SEAN
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GARDENS RESCUED

It has been a long dry season and everyone feels a little guilty about using too much water in the garden.

There is a lot of investment in the garden these days and to maintain that investment it needs to be watered. But when times are tough things need to be sacrificed and the first thing to go is the lawn. While there are plenty of dry lawns out there, help is at hand!

About two months ago I was sent a new sprinkler from a rose grower and media friend in South Australia – and if you think it is dry here you should see South Australia! – who has been developing it over the last couple of years and wanted me to trial it for myself.

The trial is over and I have to say it is a great product. I was very surprised at how well it worked and how effective it is in the way it saves water. While this may sound like an ad, I can assure you that I was not paid in any way.

The older style sprinklers would typically use about 25 litres per minute and throw water high in the air where the wind blows it around and small particles of water are lost to evaporation.

The Lo-Flo Sprinkler is a low-water flow product that uses only five litres per minute, only throws water about one metre in height,

and has a larger droplet size that does not break up and blow around.

The secret of this sprinkler is the fact that

the water it puts out is more efficient than the high-volume sprinklers.

This gives the water the opportunity to soak into the soil rather than running off.

While this may not make sense, if you were to pour three watering cans of water over the space of a minute to one patch of lawn you would find there would be substantial run off compared to only applying half a watering can over the same period.

It gives the water time to soak in!

The Lo-Flo sprinklers also work well on low-pressure systems and even gravity-fed water tanks and can be interlinked, running three sprinklers off the one hose for better coverage.

Each sprinkler will cover up to 10 square metres – not suited to extra large areas but for the average garden, it is ideal.

It also has the Smart Approved Water Mark and was a finalist in the 2011 Savewater Award.

For more information and stockists of this sprinkler, visit loflo.com.au.

Sean O'Brien is the horticultural manager of Hunter Valley Gardens. Readers can email questions to weekender@theherald.com.au.

