



Pod makes public debut at Royal Highland Show

Royal Highland Show
22-25 June 2006
Ingliston

A new organic soil improver developed by Scottish Water is making its public debut at the Royal Highland Show.

Scottish Water is sponsoring the Countryside Arena at the show and is taking the opportunity to showcase the new product which is called

Pod. Visitors to the Countryside Marquee next to the arena will be able to find out more about **Pod** and the benefits it can offer landscapers, horticulturists and gardeners.

Pod is a top quality compost which is not only peat-free but can be used for a variety of horticultural uses such as landscaping, a dressing for turf or to encourage plant growth. With 35% organic matter the product is rich in both micro and macro-nutrients making it a perfect soil improving medium.

The compost is produced under the strictest quality control conditions at Scottish Water's £2-million state-of-the-art Composting and Recycling plant at Deerdykes, Cumbernauld near Glasgow. **Pod**'s input materials processed at the centre consists of 100% green and woody plant materials including grass clippings, wood chips, branches and so forth. All input materials are carefully analysed and sifted before being composted using the latest open-air techniques. Every batch of **Pod** is fully traceable at each stage from input to output and has received PAS 100 accreditation from The Composting Association to ensure consistent quality of product. In April 2006 Scottish Water further enhanced the Deerdykes facility with the introduction of a computer-controlled in-vessel composting system which further streamlines the process and enables the processing plant to produce a variety of different grades of compost.

Pod has already been used in several large scale landscaping projects, including a 500 tonnes deployment to the new Gartcosh Business Interchange in Lanarkshire, a 90 hectare business park on the site of the former steel works. “We were very interested when we learnt that Scottish Water had recycled one of their plants to create a state-of-the-art composting facility. Sustainability underpins the whole Gartcosh project and we feel that Scottish Water's compost product can contribute to achieving this objective.” Said Simon Bennett part of the Gartcosh project management team at Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire.

Key benefits of **Pod** for landscapers include:

- Value for money
- Consistent quality guaranteed
- 100% organic and rich in nutrients to improve soil structure and productivity
- Peat-free -- helping the environment by preserving peat reserves, and meeting Government ambitions of reducing peat usage
- Available for immediate delivery

David Dunsmuir, show manager, Royal Highland Show, commented: “We are absolutely delighted that Scottish Water has chosen Scotland's premier outdoor event as the venue for the public launch of **Pod**.”

He added: “The fact that the product is organic and is produced from recycled green materials is exactly in tune with the show's ethos of presenting the highest quality horticultural products which contribute to preserving the environment and promoting sustainability.”

For further details about **Pod** please contact Louise Butcher at Scottish Water on 0131 445 6639.

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Editors Notes

Scottish Water was created in April 2002 by merging the three former regional authorities. We are a public sector organisation and were set up to improve the efficiency of the water industry in Scotland and to provide a better level of service to our customers.

Scottish Water has 2.2 million household customers and 133,000 business customers.

In the past four years we have delivered about £1.9billion worth of improvements which has seen better quality drinking water in hundreds of communities, cleaner beaches and rivers and better customer service.

Scottish Water is now running the water industry in Scotland for almost £3 million less each week than it cost under the three previous authorities.

Scottish Water is one of the top 20 businesses in Scotland and the fourth largest water utility in the UK covering an area one third of the land mass of Britain.