

# Stu News Laguna

*Stu Saffer's* Laguna Beach News and Community Forum

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## **EnviroIngenuity partners with Garden Supply, Inc., to offer improved hydroponic vertical farming systems**

Recently, we have featured two articles about Alegría Fresh farm in Laguna Canyon. The farm is a division of EnviroIngenuity.

EnviroIngenuity recently announced a partnership with Garden Supply, Inc., to represent and promote hydroponic vertical farming systems throughout the Western United States.

Garden Supply, Inc. designs and manufactures stacking pots for vertical growing systems. EnviroIngenuity is developing these pots into hydroponic vertical farming systems to suit large-scale commercial production, residential use and Community-Supported Agriculture.

“Garden Supply, Inc., has developed a recyclable polypropylene stacking pot that is very attractive and works extremely well with hydroponic vertical farming processes,” said Erik Cutter, Managing Director of EnviroIngenuity. “Garden Supply’s effort to promote environmental sustainability in the U.S. and abroad aligns with EnviroIngenuity’s purpose to create ingenious solutions to environmental problems.”

After rigorous testing and evaluation, Garden Supply’s stacking pots were selected for integration into EnviroIngenuity’s hydroponic vertical farm systems to offer a simple, attractive and hi-yield growing option, and one that is extremely resource-efficient. EnviroIngenuity also provides a wealth of information and training for entry-level home gardeners and larger-scale commercial farmers to help them grow superior food in urban spaces.

“We are excited to be working with EnviroIngenuity as this will help us further our mission of providing high-performance growing systems that can help solve the food and hunger problems that exist around the world,” said Ed Mauro, Founder and President of Garden Supply, Inc.

“Our hydroponic vertical farming process reduces energy and water use by more than 90 percent and saves space,” said Erik Cutter, Managing Director of EnviroIngenuity. “It also reduces fertilizer use by over 50% and virtually eliminates greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the need to transport produce across long distances, and it uses coir instead of organic soil which is becoming a very limited resource.”

EnviroIngenuity recently completed Alegría Fresh farm in Laguna Beach, Southern California’s first urban hydroponic vertical vegetable farm. Located in Laguna Canyon, the company’s goal is to enable individuals and communities to grow superior, nutrition-

rich food within urban areas and develop jobs for youth and veterans in urban food production.

“Our curriculum and food production systems allow youth to develop valuable life-skills by growing their own food and ultimately own their own business in urban agriculture,” said Cutter. “This is one very healthy job opportunity that cannot be outsourced and one that addresses one of modern society’s most pressing problems, access to clean, nutrient-rich food.”