The installation of the MAXI® III System at Meadowbrook Golf Club in Gainesville, Fla. marks the shipment of the 100th unit of Rain Bird's state-of-the-art golf irrigation control system. The Meadowbrook system, which recently was put into operation, controls irrigation of the course's 86 acres.

"We wanted to use the minimum amount of water on the course, and the only way we could accomplish this was to use a MAXI System," explains Chuck Garrett of Florida Irrigation Supply, the Rain Bird Golf Distributor that supplied the irrigation equipment for the job. "Water use is becoming a critical issue in Florida so we wanted to use the absolute minimum amount of it, yet still maintain the course in beautiful, tournament-quality condition."

In addition to the MAXI, which runs 22 satellites on the golf course, the system has 400 pressure regulated Rain Bird rotors to keep the layout green and lush all year long. Steve Smyers, the course's golf architect, has designed a very challenging, championship caliber golf course. Superintendent Bob Baidy oversees maintenance of the course.

The sophisticated MAXI system permits scheduling of stations on a satellite stand-by module to operate in any sequence, at any time. "The MAXI was selected for the job because it offers optimum flexibility in programming watering schedules," Smyers explains. "We also had to take into consideration water and power usage as well as labor. I knew the MAXI was the right control system for the job."

The MAXI III uses an IBM Personal Computer to program and execute watering schedules. Additionally, the system can be used to operate a number of other necessary functions such as lighting and security. The control system, which is easy to program and operate, can reduce water and power consumption by up to 40 percent.

Other MAXI features include: no-delay repeats, controller or system water budgeting, variable repeats, telecommunications and sensor capabilities and moisture level indication. The system also can be programmed for special functions such as cooling, syringing and fertilization.

Meadowbrook Golf Club, which encompasses 155 acres, eventually will comprise a club house with pro shop and approximately 500 condominium units in addition to the golf course. The MAXI System also will be used to irrigate the condominium and common areas. Charles Hippleheuser of Irrigation Construction Management designed the golf course irrigation system. Moore Golf, one of the nation's top golf course builders, served as the project's contractor.