

New weather station monitors the elements and promises no more wasted water

A new, sensitive yet relatively simple weather station – which virtually eliminates the risk of over-watering – has come onto the market.

According to irrigation engineer Gary Parker, the man responsible for this innovation, the weather station is already arousing interest from clubs who have seen its specification.

Available under the brand name of Aquaflow, the weather station is compatible with the Aquaflow controller, which has been on the market since the mid-1980s.

Designed to continuously monitor local weather conditions, the Aquaflow weather station logs temperature, barometric pressure, solar radiation, rainfall, relative humidity, wind speed and direction.

This data is fed to the irrigation system's computerised controller where it is related to the system's hydraulics – sprinkler spacings, arc of coverage, set run times, and so on.

Allowing for site factors, the controller digests the information provided and automatically adjusts the watering program to provide only the amount of water necessary to meet ET requirements.

By exercising this time degree of control, the weather station relieves greenkeepers of the chore of constantly having to update run times to keep pace with the vagaries of the weather.

Field tests, carried out last year, have surpassed expectations, says Parker.

“Not only does it allow greenkeepers a greater

flexibility, it overcomes vague, rule-of-thumb calculations. Results have shown that the weather station is capable of a seasonal water saving to the order of 15-30%.”

In addition to saving water (and reducing water costs), the weather station helps lower pump station power consumption – and charges. This is also reflected by reduced operational wear and tear to the whole of the irrigation system and therefore, maintenance.

“If only for environmental considerations, I believe the users of irrigation systems have an obligation to safeguard against wasting water – especially on golf courses,” says Parker. “The weather station provides a positive means of conserving water.”

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