

# Don't let your irrigation system fall behind

By BRUCE SHANK

Irrigation systems used to be something superintendents chose to live with rather than improve. Dating back to the days of the night waterman, superintendents delegated responsibility for the performance of their irrigation systems to a staff specialist or assistant superintendent. That person's job was

*Bruce Shank is with Irricom, the communications arm of the Irrigation Association*

to prevent budget-busting blow-outs, wet and dry spots, and pump station breakdowns.

Those days are over in most parts of the country. Superintendents understand that tweaking a golf course's irrigation system can make dramatic improvements in budget, turf quality, and reputation. Overlooking irrigation performance is an invitation for disaster in today's competitive world of golf.

One important reason to stay informed about irrigation is the

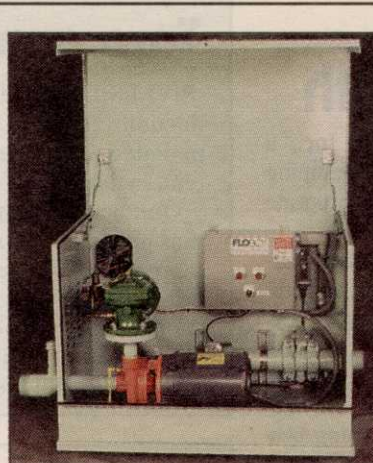
fast-paced introduction and significant cost of the latest heads, controls and weather stations. Doing nothing is going backwards and can ultimately cost your course more money than staying reasonably current with irrigation technology.

Irrigation isn't just about supplying moisture for plants anymore. It's about fertigation, pest management, recycled water, water and energy conservation, soil conditions that provide prof-

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Overlooking irrigation performance is an invitation for disaster in today's competitive world of golf. (Photo courtesy of Rain Bird)



The new Flowtronex Floboy S

## FLOWTRONEX EXPANDS, ANNOUNCES FLOBOY S

DALLAS—Flowtronex PSI has teamed up with Flowtronex Europe Ltd, a sister firm designed to provide pumping systems and service to courses throughout the United Kingdom and Europe (see *GCN* July).

The company also recently unveiled its new series of lower gallonage

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# Toro/Watertronics team on new testing facility

By MICHAEL LEVANS

HARTLAND, Wis./RIVERSIDE, Calif. — Watertronics has completed the first phase in the construction of a priority pump station for a new testing facility at Toro's irrigation plant in Riverside.

The project is part of Toro's renovation work at the Riverside facility.

"When Toro acquired the Hardie line it didn't have a lot of history of testing that product,"

said Rick Reinders, vice president of Watertronics. "So they redid their entire test lab and put in a number of new testing stations."

The new testing area is based around an "Olympic-sized swimming pool" with an overlying steel deck on which the new test fixtures are housed.

"We're supplying a pump and a VFD in their 75-125hp pump that is dedicated to each test fixture," said Reinders. "They put

their components in a test fixture, they go to the PC back in the lab and they can program their tests. For example, Toro will be able to test fixture #9, testing the valves for a month, cycle them on and off so many times a second and monitor all that information."

The new Watertronics system handles all the testing information, conducts the tests, puts it in a file and graphs it out for easy test reporting.

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