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the hottest month, usually July. However, in January you do not need the same capacity in the pump system as in July, so during less demand times, limit the flow capacity of the pump system to operate fewer pumps. This will save on power again and also reduce the wear and tear on the pump and motor to last longer. For example, if you are in Las Vegas and have a 5,000 gpm pump system with four pumps (1,250 gpm each), in the winter you could disable two of the pumps and still have 2,500 gpm available.

With all the increased technology in the pump system control panel has come better remote monitoring of the pump systems also. Today's monitoring allows you to look at and chart pressure, flow, incoming pressure if applicable, wet well level and energy use. With Internet-based monitoring you can monitor, operate, change and schedule the pump system from any smart device just as if you were standing in front of it. All of the alarms can also be funneled through the smart device so

you always have the peace of mind that it is operating well or the constant reminders of how much trouble the pump system is giving you. Today's monitoring systems have much better graphics, more information available and are much more of an interactive tool than just a screen shot to look at what is going on.

In today's economy where budgets are tight and cost containment is a major focus, scheduling your pump system operation is a way to help reduce energy and maintenance costs. Not all pump system control panels have the discussed abilities, but it is something to consider when buying a new pump system or upgrading controls. If you do not have the newer controls though, you can just shut the pumps off at times manually and get some of the same savings. Scheduling pump system operation is somewhat out-of-the-box thinking, but give it some thought and figure out if it is something that is applicable to your irrigation/pump system. GCI

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