

TURFGRASS MATTERS

August/September 1997

Volume 69, Number 3

Thinking of a New or Improved Irrigation System?

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s golf course irrigation systems have evolved in recent years to provide more extensive turf coverage with greater control, the role of the irrigation designer in irrigation system planning and installation has changed. Many architects, owners, and superintendents that in the past relied on manufacturers, distributors or contractors for plans have cho-

ptions; (5) bid support and contract administration; (6) field staking of system components; (7) inspection and punch list; (8) preparation of record drawings, and (9) irrigation system operation training and programming. While some of these services have been provided by manufacturers or distributors in the past, the advent of the more sophisticated system has made it difficult for the distributor to provide design and consulting services effectively at little or no charge as the more traditional distributor support functions such as prompt delivery, field service and operator training have become more critical. Some of the services were unnecessary since many of the systems dating back ten

tion by a professional irrigation consultant can reduce long term operating and maintenance costs and extend the life of the irrigation system.

Many systems designed by consultants are based on more than one manufacturer's products. When employing an independent irrigation design consultant, many clubs realize significant savings by soliciting proposals from more than one material source. Often, the savings is significant enough to pay for additional coverage, more control flexibility, or an upgrade in fitting materials. Accepting proposals based on one design eliminates the need to compare multiple designs for differences in the number of sprinklers and valves, pipe sizing, pump station capacity, and a number of other factors which may influence the selection of an irrigation product. Designs by professional irrigation consultants typically depict identical coverage and piping for all manufacturers, and sep-

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sen professional irrigation consultants to provide design services and other technical assistance through the irrigation system budgeting, planning, selection and installation process. Most professional irrigation consultants provide a wide range of services associated with the irrigation system design and installation including: (1) evaluation of the existing irrigation system; (2) water source testing/evaluation; (3) budget development; (4) preparation of design and specifica-

years or more were quite simple.

Professional irrigation consultants offer a number of advantages to their clients, the first being their ability to provide a professionally designed plan and specifications accompanied by bid and contract documents. It is the consultant's responsibility to reduce short term costs by eliminating questions or misinterpretations that may lead to contingency bidding and unexpected additional costs. Proper design techniques and product selec-

*Published by the
Mid-Atlantic Association of
Golf Course Superintendents*

