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## Irrigation System Cools Prism Effect On Texas Turf

**M**ODERN high rise structures may be just the ticket for business firms, but many are causing "planticide" to surrounding landscape plantings.

Take a hot, Texas summer. Add a modern structure with the new heat-reflective glass which bounces the sun's rays away from the exterior surface of the building. Turn on the afternoon sun and the result is cooking range temperatures capable of frying turf, shrubs and other vegetation all the way down to the root zone.

Case in point is the new Stemmons Empire Plaza in Dallas.

We discovered that the landscaping on the south side of the building would be most subject to reflected sun rays during the hottest part of the day," says John Heidman, Dallas Weather-matic president and irrigation contractor for the project.

"This area would require three to four times as much water as the north side. But two factors made it difficult to supply the extra water. Most of the turf areas sloped severely away from the building. And additional water could not be applied at mid-day because each drop of water would act as a miniature magnifying glass, further amplifying the reflected sun rays."

Using a Weather-matic SSR-10 Dual-Program control, the firm was able to achieve the scheduling flexibility required.

"The hot south area was zoned separately," Heidman explains, "and wired as stations 1 and 6 on the control." East and west areas were also separated from the north section.

"The dual program feature of the unit enables us to water the north area only three times weekly," he notes, "while watering all other areas daily.

Watering time for north, east and west areas is six minutes per section beginning at 4 a.m. and repeated on a second program cycle beginning at 7 a.m.

Watering time for the south area is also six minutes per cycle with three minutes applied on station 1 and the additional three minutes on the station 6 repeat.

This means that plantings in the hot south area will receive four separate three minute showers each morning. Excess runoff is minimized but adequate water is provided to offset the excessive heat.