WEATHER MONITORS

New weather watching systems help turfgrass managers keep a long-distance eye to the sky.

The weather is the biggest variable turfgrass/landscape professionals face in their professions.

Consequently they must develop flexible management strategies to use weather to their advantage, when it's favorable. Or, to manage the turfgrass and/or landscape plants under their care in the most beneficial way when it's unfavorable.

Turfgrass professionals are beginning to use the new generation of weather monitoring, and weather measuring tools. "Weather" software brings in-the-field weather information to the turf/land-scape manager's fingertips via personal computers. Data collected from weather stations and from sensors on-site provides real-time information like temperature, humidity, and wind speed. But they can do a lot more now too.

Weather 'snapshots' help

Managers can use these weather "snapshots" as the basis for their plant health decisions. Beyond that, these weather tools can predict and alert managers to conditions conducive to many weathersensitive problems like diseases, weeds or insect pests.

A new, and increasingly popular weather aid is the contracted weather monitoring service. This service accesses information from low-orbit weather satellites and makes it available to green industry professionals. Companies like Data Transmission Network provide subscribers with accurate and up-to-the-minute (almost) satellite images of approaching weather as well as more long-range conditions. (See Weather Smarts in January, 1997, LM.)

This information is site specific and gives managers "real-time" information needed to institute particular management practices in a more timely fashion. The following is a representative list of suppliers of weather-related products or services.

WEATHER PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Automata Inc.

10551 E. Bennett Road Grass Valley, CA 95945. (916) 273-0380

C&M Meteorological Supply

9680 Thoroughbred Lane Colorado Springs, CO 80908 (719) 495-8878. Fax: (719) 495-8960

Campbell Scientific, Inc.

815 W. 1800 North Logan, UT 84321 (801) 753-2342

Data Transmission Network Corp.

9110 W. Dodge Road



The basic 'weather station' is being supplemented by a variety of weather network service providers.

Omaha, NE 68114 (800) 610-0777

Davis Instruments

3465 Diablo Ave. Hayward, CA 94545 (510) 732-9229

ELE/Soiltest

P.O. Box 8004 Lake Bluff, IL 60044 (708) 295-9400

Eagle One Golf Products

1201 W. Katella Ave. Orange, CA 92667 (714) 997-1450

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

205 W. Rankin St. P.O. Box 8397 Jackson, MS 39284-8397 (601) 354-3565 (800) 647-5368

Gempler's Inc.

P.O. Box 270 211 Blue Mounds Road Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 (608) 437-4883

GolfLink

41ll Lebanon Road, Suite 107 Hermitage, TN 37076 800/200-3810

Innoquest

910 Hobe Road Woodstock, IL 60098 815/337-8555

Neogen Corp.

620 Lesher PL Lansing, MI 48912-1509 (517) 372-9200 (800) 234-5333

Spectrum Technologies, Inc.

23839 W. Andrew Road Plainfield, IL 60544 (800) 248-8873

Weather Metrics, Inc.

P.O. Box 7071 Shawnee Mission, KS 66207 (913) 438-7666

Weather Port Inc.

12150 Charles Drive #2 Grass Valley, CA 95945 (916) 274-8100