Turf /Groundcover Field Site
October 2003

Purpose
• Accurately determine the water requirements of various turf types and groundcovers for different end uses based on the ET (evapotranspiration), coefficient model
• Establish the first ITC facility in San Antonio
• Develop a model for future ITC facilities and programs

Proposed Facilities
• 180 independent test plots, each with a flow meter, soil moisture sensors, and runoff/percolation measurement device
• Central control and data acquisition systems
• On-site weather station

Partners
San Antonio Water System (SAWS), Texas Turfgrass Association, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Texas Turf Irrigation Association.

Responsibilities
• The ITC will oversee the design, installation and management of the facility, and develop irrigation schedules and water balance procedures. The weather station will be in the TexasET Network. A design review team will be assembled from participating organizations.
• TAES (White and others) will provide guidance on agronomic practices, in conjunction with a Project Team assembled from participating organizations.
• SAWS will select the plant materials to be tested during the first ~ 3 - year cycle. In the future, the Project Team will help select plant materials.

Funding
SAWS will provide funding for all design, equipment, installation and operation costs, including on-site personnel. In the future, a charge will be assessed from seed companies and others for testing services.

Location
Several options exist, including a SAWS facility near a south - side water treatment plant.