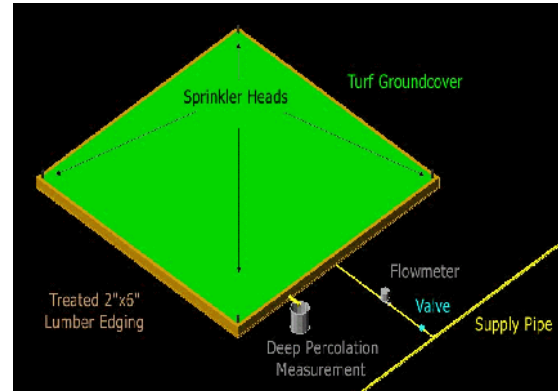
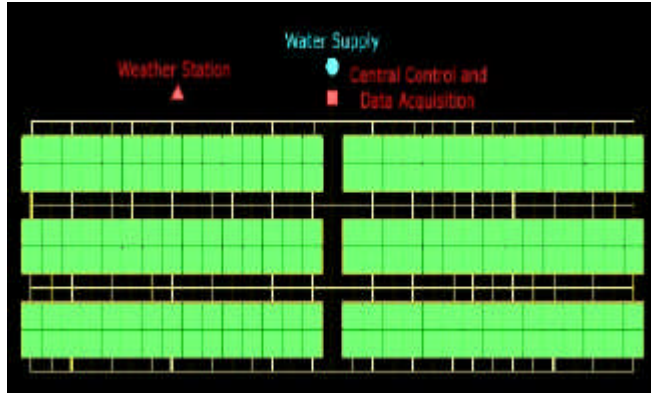


Turf /Groundcover Field Site

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.