CLOUDMASTER
IRRIGATION CONTROL SYSTEM

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Electronics
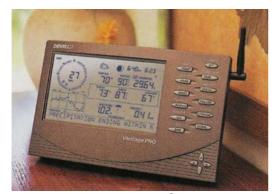
Cloudmaster - Weather Station

The recommended weather station for use with the Cloudmaster is the Vantage PRO, which is manufactured in the US by Davis Instruments. The parts that make up the weather station are the 'Integrated Sensor Suite' (ISS), the display console and a software application that runs on a standard PC or notebook computer. The ISS is a solar powered collection of weather sensors, which is mounted outside on a post or on the roof of a building. The Console is battery powered and serves as a display to show current external weather readings from the ISS and internal readings by way of its own built-in sensors. It also acts as an interface between the PC and the ISS and a data logger to store data until downloaded by the PC software. Although the PC software is optional, it looks after the data in a structured database and allows the user to easily generate graphs and plots of one or more weather variables. The ISS and console can be purchased in either radio or cable linked versions.

Radio Linked Console

Integrated Sensor Suite

Currently the Cloudmaster software does not interface directly with the weather station. This means the weather cannot automatically change the irrigation program. The two programs will run concurrently on the PC (as long as a serial port is available for each). This capability is currently under development.

In a Council application it would be impractical to have a weather station at each park. A simple rain switch ('Mini-Click' or similar) connected to the 'Rain' input of the Cloudmaster unit at each remote park and a weather station located at the central PC is the most economical and secure configuration.