

Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, Fla.

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**

Edward D. Stone and Associates

IRRIGATION CONSULTANT:

Michael Prevost

CUSTOMER:

Tim McColgan, Horticulture Manager

COMPLETION DATE:

2/2/2002

RAIN BIRD SALESPERSON:

Mark Roberts

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS:

- SiteControl
- ESP Satellite Controllers

"SiteControl gives us the flexibility to fine-tune the system and easily make minor adjustments to account for the complex and changing factors affecting our irrigation requirements."

— Tim McColgan, Horticulture Manager,
Gaylord Palms Resort

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The 1,406-room Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center is situated on 72 acres in Central Florida. Reminiscent of a grand Florida mansion, the building houses a 4.5-acre, glass-enclosed atrium featuring plant specimens ranging from Cuban royal palms to ferns and grasses typical of the Everglades. Outdoor vegetation ranges from Southern magnolias to lush carpets of Bermuda and St. Augustine grasses. Total landscaping encompasses over one-half million individual specimens.

CHALLENGE:

From drought-tolerant species to specimens requiring rainforest-like moisture and temperatures, the resort's exotic plant varieties represent a multi-million dollar investment. Irrigation capabilities must not only meet the needs of diverse vegetation, but varied climates—with three distinct atrium environments and the outdoor conditions of Central Florida. In addition, the resort's color beds are designed to be rotated seasonally or replanted — while guests are sleeping — for overnight holiday and special event surprises, requiring frequent changes to the irrigation schedule.

SOLUTION:

Gaylord Palms combined Rain Bird® SiteControl Central Control System with ESP Satellite Controllers. The dynamic, map-based system allows fine-tuned irrigation control over the resort's wide-ranging species, while also accounting for environmental differences.

COST AND WATER SAVINGS:

Due to the increased efficiency of SiteControl, the resort has realized an annual water savings of 20-30 percent.

Additionally, the ET-based SiteControl System provides the resort's horticultural team the flexibility to minimize water usage while maximizing the splendor of a diverse and complex landscape. The team can easily monitor every square foot of the 72-acre property with the ability to make adjustments to any individual station with a simple mouse-click.