



MANAGING YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

PROGRAM RUN TIME AND SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

SPRING START UP

At start up we will: (1) Reinstall meters or backflow devices that we removed for winterization; (2) Activate the system "Point of Connection" water supply; (3) Run your system to verify its proper working order; (4) Make necessary head and nozzle adjustments; (5) Verify or set your controller program. If additional problems are detected, we will advise you and, with your permission, make the necessary repairs.

We will also provide you with our "Managing Your Sprinkler System" information sheet that will help you make scheduling adjustments during the changing summertime weather conditions.

Unless you request otherwise, we will leave your controller in the "OFF" position. When the weather is such that watering becomes necessary, move the controller selection dial to the "ON/AUTO" position.

PROGRAM TIMES If you do not already have a program set up, we will establish a program that accommodates average watering needs, generally Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Rotor zones are generally set for approximately 30 to 40 minutes, pop up zones are approximately 15 to 20 minutes. Remember that the run times that work best for you depends on the head spacing and the performance of your system, shade, slope, or grade, and soil composition.

GENERAL RULE TO FOLLOW A heavier soaking of the soil profile 3 times per week is preferable to light daily waterings. ***Grass watered too often will be more susceptible to disease activity.***

EARLY MORNING WATERING We will set your watering start time for the early morning. Early morning watering is best to decrease evaporation. It is advisable to schedule around showering or bathing schedules. Never water in the evening or after nightfall, this practice will encourage potentially damaging disease activity.

RAIN SENSOR Consider having Custom Turf add a rain sensing device to your system. A rain sensor will shut your system down during measurable rainfall to reduce wasted watering. A rain sensor will save money for you on your water bill, and prevent your grass and plants from being oversaturated. **Most systems will accommodate a rain sensor at a cost of \$198.50.**

WINTERIZATIONS ***If we winterized your sprinkler system last year, installed a new system, or worked on the existing system this year, then you are scheduled to have us winterize your system this fall. We start winterizations the first week of October, and continue through November. We will call in advance to schedule your winterization.***

KNOW YOUR LAWN, KNOW YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Your lawn and sprinkler system are unique. The general rules must be modified to your system performance and lawn characteristics. ***As the weather changes through the summer months, it may be necessary to increase or decrease your station run times and watering frequency. 95° temperatures and drought dictate different watering needs than 85° and regular rainfall. If you need help, Custom Turf will be glad to assist.***

DURING THE SEASON If during the season a problem occurs, for example you damage a sprinkler head, pipe or control wire, please phone to schedule a service call. Repair service charges at \$65.00 per man hour plus material costs.

Sprinkler head adjustment may change from regular use. Custom Turf cannot be responsible for deficiencies due to incorrect installation and design by others. Custom Turf will make recommendations to help correct performance issues.



Custom Turf's **GREEN** Solutions!!!

A responsible approach to lawn & landscape management

IRRIGATION

Due to severe droughts and water restrictions, the irrigation manufacturing industry has been forced to produce more efficient products. These products are mainly designed to reduce waste due to overwatering, and to maximize the performance of your systems ability to cover the desired areas.

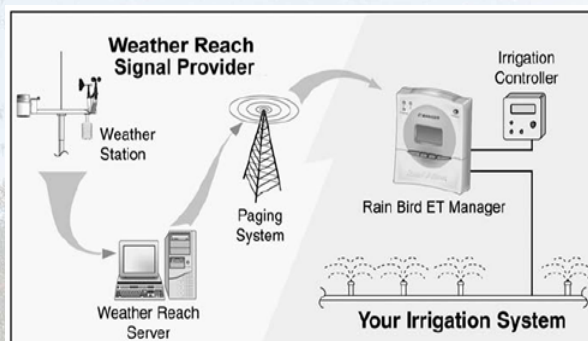
Controllers / Weather Stations

Over the last few years, manufacturers have produced several new *Smart/ET* controllers. Smart controllers are irrigation clocks that automatically adjust irrigation run times in response to environmental changes. Smart controllers use sensors and weather information to manage watering times and frequency. As environmental conditions vary, the controller increases or decreases irrigation. The smart controllers receive the information from either a local mini weather station installed on your home, or via antenna from a local paging weather signal. Smart controllers have the ability to turn off your sprinklers automatically during rain, high wind or low temperature.

Smart controllers reduce outdoor water use by an average of 20 to 40 percent. They also reduce over watering, which can cause fungal disease and insect problems.

Rain Bird's ET Manager can be added to an existing system. The unit is compatible with MOST manufacturer's controllers & will upgrade your system to an ET/Weather based system.

This new technology takes the guesswork out of homeowner programming!



Heads

Another new development in the irrigation industry is pressure regulated sprinkler heads or PRS heads. Sprinkler heads are designed to function best at a certain pressure (typically rotors 45psi, and sprays 30psi). However, because of several factors, it is nearly impossible to achieve ideal pressure at each head. Some of these factors are: Number of heads per zone - 4 heads on a zone will utilize more water than 3 heads on a zone. Order of heads on a zone - The last head of a zone will naturally have less pressure than the 1st head. Lawn topography - Water will lose pressure travelling up hill to a sprinkler head & will gain pressure traveling downhill.

These factors can contribute to heads not operating at a maximum efficiency which can equal wasteful watering. Custom Turf can now install pressure regulated heads to ensure that each head is operating at maximum efficiency. This practice has been documented to reduce water usage by up to 40%.

Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is simply the collection and distribution of natural rain water for irrigation applications. This requires the installation of an underground holding tank. All home downspouts direct rain water to the holding tank year round which is then used for irrigation.

Sprinkler systems use an average 18 gallons of water per minute. That is 1,080 gallons per hour. The average household (without factoring in irrigation) only uses 485 gallons per week. So, sprinkler systems use more water in ½ hour than your whole household uses in 1 week! More efficient toilets, showerheads, dishwashers, etc. have become very popular in the last few years and only will save 10 to 20 gallons per week. If your system automatically runs for 1 day for 2 hours on a lawn & landscape that does not need it, you are wasting 2,160 gallons!

Western Pennsylvania has not experienced many water supply problems, and will probably not in the foreseeable future. However, new technology to improve efficiency in irrigation can be put to good use by saving our customers money & improving the appearance of lawns and landscapes.

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

LED technology is changing the landscape lighting industry and will eventually replace the use of incandescent light bulbs. What is LED??? LED stands for light emitting diodes. (LED's) use 75% less energy resulting in lower operating costs and the elimination of voltage drop issues. LED fixtures last approximately 40,000 hours (about 20 years) before replacement is needed. So why is all of this so beneficial?? In most cases, Custom Turf can now 'add on' to existing systems using LED's without updating transformers or rewiring. Also, with LED installations, you do not have to worry about changing light bulbs for 20 years! Custom Turf has already performed several "LED Conversions" on our customer's lighting systems. Contact our office today for a free no obligation estimate for a new lighting system, or to look at updating your existing lighting system.

