

# IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS DE*Mist*IFIED

IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS ARE TRICKY. LEARN ABOUT THE BASICS AND SOAK UP THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NEED TO HELP MASTER THE PROGRAMMING PROCESS.

## LEARN THE BASICS

### GET TO KNOW THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF YOUR SYSTEM

#### PROGRAMS

Most controllers have three programs (A, B, C). The programs control when and how long each zone is watered. Each has a start time (the time of day watering will begin) and run times. Individual zones can be turned on or off in each program. For example, you might run your lawn zones 2 days a week on Program A, and your vegetable garden daily on Program B.

#### VALVE

The part of the sprinkler system that receives signals from the timer. Those signals prompt the valve to open and release water. A sprinkler system timer works by telling these valves when to open and operate.

#### STATION/ZONE

On your controller, the term “station” or “zone” refers to the valves being controlled. When programming a sprinkler system timer, specify which stations to activate according to watering needs.

#### START TIME

The start time allows you to specify a time of day for each program to start irrigating the stations or zones associated with it.

#### RUN TIME

Also known as “station duration,” this is the time that a valve will remain opened.



## DECODE THE MODES

#### AUTOMATIC/RUN MODE

Any schedules you program will run automatically when this mode is enabled.

#### MANUAL MODE

This mode allows you to set and run a specific zone for a specific length of time. It's best used while performing repairs or during a system check for broken or misaligned heads, leaks or other problems.

#### OFF/STOP MODE

This will prevent your programs from running. Use this mode after a significant rain or at the end of the season.



## ADJUST SEASONALLY

Most newer irrigation controllers have seasonal adjust buttons to make quick “across-the-board” adjustments to programs. Here's how to use it:

- During peak summer months, keep your seasonal adjust setting at 100 percent.
- For cooler months in the Spring and Fall, switch your seasonal adjust button to 80 percent.
- As a rule of thumb, adjust your controller when you adjust your thermostat.

## GET YOUR SPRINKLER HEAD IN THE GAME

Different sprinkler heads require different watering times. Optimize water savings by:



- Checking the Thornton Watering Guide for recommended times.
- Only using one kind of sprinkler head in each zone.

*Every irrigation controller is a little different. All features of your controller may not be listed here. Refer to the manual that was included with your system for additional features.*



## GET YOUR SYSTEM IN CHECK



**DON'T JUST SET IT AND FORGET IT, MAKE SURE YOU ARE USING YOUR SYSTEM CORRECTLY BY TAKING THESE SIMPLE STEPS**

- Check your settings to make sure you aren't unintentionally running extra programs (and wasting extra water).
- Make sure your programs are only set to run a maximum of three times a week.
- Schedule Programs to Cycle & Soak (break your watering time into three smaller cycles). Three start times within one program are recommended. Keep in mind that having three start times means that every zone on the program will run three times. No need to set a start time for each zone. If you have a 10-minute run time, each zone will actually be running for 30 minutes per watering day.
- If you have a newer home, make sure your controller isn't set for establishing new sod by reducing the number of watering days and run times.

## SAVE MORE WITH THESE WISE WATERING TIPS

**WATER IN THE COOLER HOURS OF THE DAY**

Early morning (before 10 a.m.)  
or Evening (after 6 p.m.)

**WATER NO MORE THAN TWO TIMES A WEEK**

Check the Thornton Watering Guide for optimal watering schedules in the hotter months.

**USE THE CYCLE & SOAK METHOD**

to build strong roots and prevent runoff. Look for the "Cycle & Soak" fact sheet.

**SYSTEM CHECK UP**

Check each zone at least monthly to ensure the system does not have any issues such as broken heads or leaks.

## AND FINALLY... CASH IN ON THE WATER SAVINGS



Get a REBATE when you upgrade to a WaterSense® rain sensor or irrigation controller that is easy to program, operates from your phone and automatically adjusts to weather conditions.

**TAP INTO MORE IRRIGATION CONTROLLER INFO, WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING WISDOM AND H<sub>2</sub>O SAVING-TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS. SOAK IT ALL IN AT THORNTONWATER.COM**