



Agriculture	Commercial Horticulture	Florida-Friendly Landscaping™	Water Conservation	Master Gardeners Master Naturalists	Marine Extension	Families & Consumers	4-H Youth Development	Soils Unit	Sustainability
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Lawn & Landscape Sustainability:

Irrigation Maintenance and Sprinkler System Tune-up Checklist

- 1. Identify Equipment** - Make an irrigation system map that shows the location of all water lines, shut-off valves, back flow preventer valves, controllers, sprinklers, bubblers, and emitters.
- 2. Look for Leaks** - Turn off all water and read your water meter. On the water meter face is a red triangle. If this triangle is moving clockwise you may have a water leak.
- 3. Check Controllers**
 - Make sure the clock is set for the proper day of the week and time of day.
 - Make a list of all the stations and where they water. Include type of plant being watered and type of heads. Place list in the controller for future reference.
 - If the controller has a battery backup, replace it at the beginning of each watering season.
- 4. Inspect System**
 - Repair or replace broken or missing rotor heads, spray heads, "bubblers" and drip emitters.
 - Make sure all heads pop-up all of the way and fully retract when the water is turned off.
 - Check for sprinklers blocked by grass, plants or other obstacles. If the spray is blocked, remove the obstacle or move the sprinkler head.
 - Make sure sprinklers are vertical and flush with the soil grade. Soil should be tightly compacted around the sprinkler.
 - Check for proper pressure. Water will stream out of the sprinkler instead of forming a spray if the pressure is too low or mist excessively if it is too high. Install a pressure-reducing valve or reduce flow through the valve.
 - Clean or replace clogged nozzles and clean the sprinkler's trash screen, if it has one.
 - Make sure all heads direct water to landscape and not to impervious surfaces such as pavement.
- 5. Set Schedule**
 - Water early in the morning, preferably between midnight and 7 a.m.
 - Determine the maximum run time for each zone before runoff starts. This often occurs after about 5-10 minutes for clay soils or after 18 minutes for loamy sand soils. Decrease these times for slopes. If runoff is a problem, irrigate more often for shorter periods, waiting at least an hour between watering.
- 6. Inspect Sensor** - Make sure a rain sensor is properly installed, set at ½-inch and not sheltered by walls, shrubs or other plants.

Created September 12, 2011 by Dr. Marina D'Abreu, Director, UF IFAS Manatee County Extension