



Featured Article

Smart Controllers

Most homeowners use the “system on/system off” approach to adjusting their landscape watering needs to match the changes in the seasons and weather. Widely used in the commercial landscape industry for many years, smart controllers are readily available to the residential customer.

Smart controllers automatically adjust your watering schedule and run-times in response to changes in the weather and environment, including conditions such as temperature, wind, humidity, and precipitation.

There are two basic types of smart controllers – sensor-based and weather-based. Sensor-based controllers receive information from soil probes and adjust the system settings according to the soil moisture content. Weather-based controllers receive daily evapotranspiration (ET – water evaporation and plant transpiration) data from a remote weather station, telling the controller how much water is needed to make up for the previous day’s water loss.

Smart controllers are available at local irrigation supply houses, such as Ewing Irrigation, John Deere, and Hydro-Scape Products, and start at about \$250, depending on the desired features. Installation by a professional is highly recommended and costs around \$300.

Water savings using a smart controller system averages about 25%. There are several manufacturer and water agency rebates available to the consumer, making the systems even more appealing and affordable.