Smart Irrigation Systems A Greener Idea



If you're a typical homeowner, you probably put your automatic sprinkler system into the same category as your home's heating and cooling system. You expect it to work reliably and efficiently with minimum fuss. The latest technology offers just that — and more.

Automated irrigation systems offer convenience while protecting your landscape investment. A well-maintained system keeps your lawn and landscape beautiful and healthy, while minimizing water waste.

To raise awareness of the benefits of efficient watering practices, the Irrigation Association has named July Smart Irrigation Month. Make time this summer to be sure you're getting the most out of your irrigation system, while keeping utility bills low and helping to protect the environment.

Sprinklers Get Smart

The new generation of "smart" irrigation systems monitor weather, soil conditions, evaporation and plant water use and automatically adjust your watering schedule.

The secret to smart systems is the controller. Smart controllers use weather and/or site data to determine when and how long to water. Then, sprinklers apply just enough water at exactly the right time in each zone of your yard.

Smart controllers:

- Save water. Smart systems automatically suspend watering during rain, freezing or high
 wind conditions. Careful scheduling minimizes evaporation and encourages water to soak
 in, reducing the total amount of water needed. Preventing overwatering actually keeps
 plants healthier by encouraging stronger roots and discouraging weeds, disease and fungus
 growth.
- **Save money.** Smart systems can reduce your annual water bill by as much as 30 percent by preventing water waste. Plus, many local water providers offer rebates for purchasing specific smart controllers.
- Save time. Once an irrigation installer has programmed your site data into the smart system, the controller adjusts the watering schedule based upon weather conditions and soil moisture without manual intervention.
- Add convenience. Smart controllers adapt to seasonal weather changes without requiring reprogramming. And their "set and forget" technology is perfect for complying with any local watering restrictions, as well as for frequent travelers and vacation or second homes.

You may be able to upgrade your current irrigation system with a smart controller. Some new components are designed as easy add-ons to existing systems.

Smart Irrigation Month is an initiative of the Irrigation Association, a non-profit industry organization dedicated to promoting efficient irrigation. Learn more at www.smartirrigationmonth.org.

To find an IA-certified professional to design, install, maintain or audit your irrigation system, visit www.irrigation.org/hirecertified.