



Irrigation System Maintenance

FLUSH IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

- Turn system off
- If necessary, pull drip lines up to the surface for inspection and always before adding more mulch
- Remove end caps/closures of water lines
- Turn system on and run water until clear stream of water flows from lines
- Turn system off
- Check nozzles and rinse of flush screens and filters
- Put all components of the system back together
- Turn system on and check for proper operation

INSPECT IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT MOVING FROM VALVE TO VALVE:

- Identify and replace or clear any clogged nozzles or drip emitters
- Walk the line and ensure there are no breaks or leaks in the line ó LISTEN
- If line is kinked, replace that section
- Identify where the line is around trees; as trees grow, move the line closer to the outside canopy of the tree
- Ensure emitters are not right on the trunk of trees or shrubs and move as necessary using goof plugs to close the old holes
- If shrubs have grown, consider adding an emitter to the other side of the shrub

INSPECT IRRIGATION CONTROLLER/SENSORS:

- From your controller, turn each valve on ó ensure each valve turns on and off and is not leaking
- Ensure each valve runs for the specified period of time
- Review the irrigation schedule and make sure each zone is set appropriately
- Replace the battery in the controller
- Double check your programming ó date, time, programs used (A,B,C) and zone settings
- For each program add up the irrigation minutes set for each zone so you know how long it takes to water each program and then make sure your program start times are far enough apart that you are not trying to run more than one program at a time
- If a weather or rain sensor is installed, clean the dome and check the vents to ensure they are opened the appropriate amount

For help with your garden problems, call the Master Gardener hotline at 565-2608 or visit the Master Gardener information desk in the University of California Cooperative Extension office (133 Aviation Blvd., # 109, Santa Rosa), or ask a Master Gardener at your local farmers market or the Sonoma County Fair or other event. See our website at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/scmg/> for additional publications.

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