

Drip System Maintenance

1. Adjust the irrigation controller to reflect changes in the weather

Temperature changes

Precipitation

Windy season

Wet Weather – add a sensor gauge to the controller if it doesn't have one

2. Replace the battery on the controller once a year

Wall mounted types have a battery just in case of power outages.

Hose bib controllers always need a battery.

3. Inspect irrigation for leaks, clogs and breaks of the main components

Check the pressure regulator, filters, valves and backflow preventers. Clean them and spray them out with water.

4. Flush out the drip system

At the end of each drip irrigation run, open them up one at a time. Run each zone individually for a minute or two. Then turn off the zone. Close the ends.

5. Check the drip tubing for breaks and leaks

Slowly walk the whole property, listen and look for leaks.

Leaks can happen from shovels, animals, freezing, pruners, heavy traffic, sun damage and foot traffic.

6. Examine Emitters, Micro-sprayers and Bubblers

Clean out the flag emitters, replace emitters and sprayers that don't work.

Ensure the ½ and ¼ inch drip lines are covered with mulch.

7. Move the emitters away from the crown of the plants and trees.

Plants and trees that are established should have water at their roots.

