



## The Water Cronicles

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### Spending Hundreds can save you thousands.

By Chris Vasecka

Not to be biased or self serving, but if nothing has been changed or done to your irrigation system since it was installed, you are simply throwing money away. Though your grass may be green, your wallet is unnecessarily left with a little less. Your irrigation system is not much different then your car. When you purchased it, it provided a certain performance like Miles per Gallon or Percent of proper coverage. Unlike your new car that stated the MPG on the window, your irrigation system does not give you a percentage of coverage. The only way to determine this is by having a scientific performance audit conducted on your irrigation system. This is done by doing a live catch of the precipitation which is put out by your system.



From this process we can determine where the problems of coverage exist. We also take into account the location of the zone which is being operated and the shade, soil and plant conditions. Once all information is gathered a report is created which will give us proper programming information. This information includes soil, shade and watering frequency which may be different in each city. At the far right results are determine for how long the zone should operate to keep all zones equal in output. Surprisingly they are not all the same. This is because each zone is different in the way they were constructed, the type of heads used, spacing, nozzles, pressure, water available, and quality of equipment installed.

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#### Zone Setup

Zone	Weight Taken	Shade Density	Soil Type	Frequency of Watering	New Clock Time	
1	22.00	Heavy Shade	Loam	Every other day	16	<a href="#">Edit</a>
2	16.00	Sunny	Loam	Everyday	14	<a href="#">Edit</a>
3	5.60	Heavy Shade	Loam	Everyday	32	<a href="#">Edit</a>
4	10.00	Heavy Shade	Sandy Loam	Every other day	44	<a href="#">Edit</a>
5	8.00	Sunny	Loam	Everyday	28	<a href="#">Edit</a>
6	10.00	Partial Shade	Sandy Loam	Everyday	25	<a href="#">Edit</a>
7	15.00	Partial Shade	Loam	Every other day	26	<a href="#">Edit</a>
8	22.00	Partial Shade	Loam	Every other day	18	<a href="#">Edit</a>
9	34.00	Partial Shade	Sandy Loam	Once a week	51	<a href="#">Edit</a>
10	20.00	Heavy Shade	Loam	Every third day	26	<a href="#">Edit</a>

Once a program is developed it can be installed into your home controller. To take in the effects of monthly weather changes, we use the historical weather information which is provided for your own zip code. Another alternative is to install a Weather based Controller. The cost of an audit is determined by the size of the mainline. Most small residential and commercial systems have a 1 inch or less mainline. Audits for this size system are 10 dollars per zone audited and the cost of labor to perform the audit. Larger Residential and commercial systems which have mainlines larger that 1 inch are 20 dollars per zone audited and the cost of labor to perform the audit. Online access to the audit report and a paper report are provided at the end of the audit. Most audits take between one hour to two hours to complete for smaller systems. The cost ranges between \$150 and \$300 for a complete audit. The savings come in the form of proper programming, using the right amount of water at the right time through out the year, saving you thousands in the long run. For more info go to

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