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How Does a SMART Controller Save Water?

A SMART controller saves water by applying only what is required by a specific landscape. It does this by automatically adjusting schedules to meet real time weather & soil conditions as compared to a conventional controller which operates a fixed pre-set schedule. It can track water usage & respond to water or electrical issues. We all know that the weather is constantly changing & so are water requirements.

How do you select the SMART controller that works best for you? Does it make adjustments based on real time weather or soil moisture conditions? How will it receive the continuous input of information needed to make the critical daily adjustments required (i.e. Wi-Fi, cellular, ethernet)? What are the specific program concerns unique to your property? A qualified water management professional can help you answer these questions in order to select the right controller for you.

Now that you have selected the controller, what is the next step? Is it simply hanging the new controller & connecting the field wires? A SMART controller needs accurate data input to be effective. For example, station data such as sprinkler type, precipitation rate, sprinkler efficiency, soil type, plant type, root depth, slope percentage, location on slope & maximum allowable depletion must be entered. This and other information specific to your site like start times, active days & water window are required. A clear understanding of the SMART controller selected & the site is essential. Incomplete or inaccurate data entry will not provide the water savings the controller is capable of producing.

Once the right SMART controller for you has been installed, all of the necessary information specific to your landscape is entered & a base schedule has been programmed, are you done? How can you tell? Do you just wait to receive your next water bill? You can monitor your system performance on a daily basis & make fine tuning adjustments if needed. You can setup your controller to send alerts when there are any flow or electrical problems. Alert like a no flow notification when a valve doesn't open, a high zone flow alert when a zone has a broken sprinkler, a mainline leak alarm when no valves are operating or a valve short when there is a broken wire. Most SMART controllers have this capability. Daily flow monitoring & alerts can save you hundreds of dollars by giving you real time performance information as opposed to only finding out you have a problem when you receive your water bill or have to replace plant when a zone is not operating. Notifications can be done by email, text or product app. You can verify that a rain &/or soil moisture sensor is working when a pre-determined amount of rain has been received on your

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site. The key word here is *management*. Someone has to have eyes on your system to realize all of the water & dollar savings potential.

In summary, a SMART controller will save water. When compared to a conventional controller it can easily save 25 to 50% or more. How much is dependent on the right controller selection, setup & ongoing management. By looking at your past history, a water management professional can give you a very good idea as to your water & dollars savings potential.