



RAIN/FREEZE SENSOR

URBAN WATER PROGRAM

Install a rain/freeze sensor on your irrigation system!

Rain/Freeze sensors prevent your automatic sprinkler system from watering during a rain or freeze and can potentially save more than 500 gallons a day during rainy conditions.

A rain sensor keeps the irrigation system from starting or continuing after rainfall quantities of 1/8", 1/4", 1/2", 3/4", or 1". This is called the reset rate. The reset rate refers to the amount of time it takes the rain sensor to dry out sufficiently for the sprinkler system to be allowed to come back on. The time that it takes the rain sensor to reset for normal sprinkler operation after the rain has stopped is determined by weather conditions (wind, sunlight, humidity, etc.). These conditions will determine how fast the hygroscopic discs dry out, and since the landscape is also experiencing the same conditions, their respective drying rates will parallel each other.

There is an adjustment capability on the rain sensor that will slow down the reset rate. This adjustment can compensate for an overly sunny or shady installation location or peculiar soil conditions. It is suggested to set your sensor to 1/8". The temperature at which the freeze sensor is activated is 37°F ±2° (3°C ±1°) and is not adjustable. The placement of your rain/freeze sensor is very important. Please consider the following to insure that your equipment is most effective.

- Mount the rain sensor to a gutter or roof eave where it will be exposed to direct, unobstructed rainfall (but away from sprinkler spray).
- Mount as close as possible to the timer. This will cause the wire run to be shorter, which minimizes the possibility of wire breaks.
- Mount in the highest possible position where rain can fall directly upon the rain sensor.
- Refrain from mounting the rain sensor on a very sunny, southeastern end of a building as it may cause the rain sensor to dry out sooner than desired. Similarly, mounting on the northern end of a building with constant shade may keep the rain sensor from drying soon enough.

By installing a rain/freeze sensor you will not only prevent your automatic sprinkler system from running while its raining, potentially causing excessive runoff from your property, but will also prevent your plants from receiving excessive amounts of water.

Better yet, it will save you money and conserve our precious natural resource.