



## IRRIGATION SYSTEM TUNE-UP

Spring cleaning is just as important outdoors as it is indoors. Water is necessary for all plant growth and a key to this is an effective irrigation system. Automatic irrigation systems require regular maintenance to ensure that the system is working properly and that no leaks have developed.

Many people prefer to hire outside services to handle the maintenance of their automatic systems; however, for those who like to take charge and maintain their system on their own, listed below are a few procedures on starting up your irrigation system in preparation for those hot summer months ahead.

💧 Check the system by running it and replace any clogged emitters or nozzles with new ones. Cleaning these devices often leaves small scratches that can mess up the spray pattern, leaving dry spots.

💧 Flush out your sprinkler or drip system. This will help to rid the bugs and other critters that have taken up residence in your sprinklers, emitters, tubes, and pipes. To flush, open the ends of drip tubes and flush them out by turning on the water.

💧 Check your sprinkler nozzles and clean calcium buildup by using one of many calcium remover products.

💧 Check for leaking valves and replace.

💧 Check the controller for the correct run times for each station. If it has a back-up battery, replace it with a new one. Most solid state controllers use Alkaline batteries and will not work correctly with other kinds.

💧 Controllers that have built in battery chargers should be labeled "rechargeable." Some controllers come with a non-volatile program memory and don't need batteries.

For the efficient use of water and to keep your lawn healthy and green this season, maintain your irrigation system!

**USE WATER WISELY!**