

SPRING START-UP OF YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

BEFORE YOU START CHECK THESE ITEMS

1. Replace all field controllers that were removed in the fall.
2. Have a representative of stock repair parts on hand including PVC pipe, fittings, repair couplings and sprinkler heads.
3. Open the drain valves at the ends of several laterals or turn on several heads at those locations (high spots on a "looped" system).
4. Start early! Before you need to irrigate in order to allow time for repairs if necessary.

STARTING UP THE PUMPS

1. Visually inspect all pumps and pump controls for rodent and water damage.
2. Lubricate pump and motor bearings and spin the pumps by hand to make sure they're free.
3. Replace all of the drain plugs in your pumps and specialty valves. Remember air must be vented from pressure control valve ports for it to operate properly.
4. Replace the suction lines and prime the pumps.
5. Inspect or replace all fuses and relays in the pump control panels and make sure all pressure switches are connected.
6. Turn on the "jockey" or smallest pump to fill the system. Use the valve on the discharge side of the pump to throttle the flow of water to the irrigation system. This should be done by maintaining normal operating pressure at the pump.

Note:

When filling an irrigation system care must be taken to prevent water hammer (a shock wave set up by introducing water under high flow rates into an air filled pipe). Excessive high flow-low pressure filling can also cause a destructive pump cavitation (pump sounds like marbles rattling inside).

7. While filling the system, check all the lines throughout the golf course for leaks —repair as needed.
8. Turn off the sprinkler heads and/or close all drains, bring the system up to operating pressure.
9. If you have an automatic pump plant and irrigation system turn all pumps to automatic and start a normal irrigation cycle. Check the operation of the pumps, controllers, valves and heads.

Note:

Pumps and valves with stuffing box packings will leak abnormally until their seals absorb water and swell. Don't tighten down packings prematurely or you may risk permanent damage to pump shafts and valve stems.

10. If you should have any questions or a problem develops while starting-up your irrigation system, contact your distributor or installer.

This method of starting-up your irrigation system may take some extra time, but it will extend the life of your system.