Sprinkler Types, Suggested System Maintenance, & Basic Info.

What are the Elements of an Automatic Irrigation System?

- Controller/Timer: The controller, or timer, is the brain of your system, telling your sprinklers what day, what time and exactly how much to water.
- Valves: Installed above or below the ground, usually near the water source, valves regulate water flow to the sprinklers.
- Lawn Sprinklers: Installed in a special pattern for complete and even coverage, an appropriately designed automatic sprinkler system delivers precise coverage without gaps or runoff.
- Rain Switch (Optional): A Rain Switch signals your system to shut off automatically when it's raining. There is no sense watering when nature is doing its part. The Rain Switch is a reliable and inexpensive option that saves countless gallons of water.

Sprinkler Types:

- Fixed-Spray Sprinklers: produce a tight, constant fan of water ideal for small lawn, shrub, and ground cover areas. Pop-up models pop up above grasses and disappear when not in use.
- Shrub sprays: are mounted above foliage to water ground cover and shrubs.
- Flood Bubblers: produce a flow of water that soaks the soil without wetting the leaves. They are ideal for tree wells, planters, and shrubs.
- Stream Bubblers: are for efficient watering of small planter beds and shrubs areas. Stream bubblers are available in a variety of patterns.
- Gear-Driven, Single-Stream: rotary sprinklers cover large lawn areas most efficiently. Some single-stream rotors have an arc adjustment for placement in corners. Like other pop-up sprinklers, they pop up above grass and disappear when not in use.
- Gear-Driven, Multi-Stream: rotary sprinklers produce thin, attractive streams of water that slowly rotate to ensure proper penetration for medium-sized lawn and shrub areas. Multi-stream, pop-up lawn, and shrub models are excellent for lawns or ground cover–especially on slopes.

Basic Information:

- To find out how much water your sprinkler system is putting on your yard run this test.
    - Use water auditing cups.
    - Place the cups in different spots in the yard that are all watered by one zone.
    - Run the sprinklers for that zone for 10 minutes.
    - Now take a ruler and measure the depth of the water in each of the cups.
        - NOTE: If your cups had a wide range of amounts of water in them, you may have uneven distribution of water in that zone. If this is the case, you may need to run the zone longer to get enough water to the weaker areas. This problem could be caused by plugged or blocked sprinkler heads, or improper spacing of the heads.

- Periodically removing your sprinkler head nozzles and cleaning the filter screen can help eliminate areas of dead grass and plants caused by plugged nozzles.
- For Electronic timers, be sure to replace the back-up battery at least once a year (more often if you have frequent power outages).
- Having too many sprinkler heads in a zone can prevent the heads from functioning properly, causing them to not pop up completely or spray effectively.
- For wintery weather climates perform a blow out before the first freeze every year.

Sprinkler on a zone is Not Popping Up Correctly.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Not enough water pressure to run the zone.	Split the zone into two or more zones.
Main system shutoff valve is not fully open.	Open the system shut off valve counterclockwise.
Flow control on the zone valve is partially closed.	Open the flow control counterclockwise.

Sprinkler Pops Up, But No Water Sprays.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Radius adjustment screw may be turned fully off.	Turn the screw counterclockwise.
Nozzle clogged by debris.	Remove and clean nozzle.
Internal nozzle filter may be plugged by debris.	Flush out the nozzle screen.
Broken sprinkler.	Replace spray or rotor.

Rotor Sprinkler Will Not Rotate.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Too little water pressure.	Increase water pressure.
Sprinkler is broken.	Replace spray or rotor.

There Is a Gap in The Spray Pattern.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Debris stuck in sprinkler nozzle and/or head.	Clean out the sprinkler head and nozzle.
Sprinkler is faulty.	Replace spray or rotor.

Sprinkler Rotates in One Direction, Then Stops.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Not enough pressure to rotate sprinkler.	Increase water pressure.
Faulty sprinkler head.	Replace spray or rotor.

Water Floods from A Sprinkler.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Sprinkler nozzle missing.	Replace the missing nozzle.
Cracked or missing sprinkler head.	Replace spray or rotor.

Sprinkler Will Not Retract After Watering.

Possible Causes:	Remedy:
Debris is stuck between the sprinkler riser and the riser seal.	Remove any debris from the seal.
Damaged riser or riser seal.	Replace the seal or replace the sprinkler.
Damaged retraction spring.	Replace spray or rotor.