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Frequent Rainbird Irrigation Questions

1. How do I clean pop-up sprinklers?

Pop-up sprinklers are very easy to clean. To remove the nozzle simply pull up the pop up part of the sprinkler and the nozzle is on the very top. Hold onto the stem with one hand, turn the nozzle counterclockwise until it separates from the stem. As you remove the nozzle, you should see a screen inside the riser. Pull out the screen and rinse both the screen and the nozzle in clean water. **Never clean plastic nozzles with a wire brush as this can damage the outlets in the hardware and render the hardware inoperable.**

If the nozzle is blocked and cannot be cleaned, you will have to replace the nozzle with one of the same type. The type of nozzle is on the top and is designated by a number and letters. Before replacing the screen and nozzle, open the valve and flush out the head. Turn off the station, then put the screen and nozzle back on the stem and turn the zone back on. You may need to re-adjust the direction of the sprinklers spray. You can make these adjustments by grabbing and twisting the stem left or right until the spray of water is confined to the area that needs to be watered.

2. How do I adjust the spray on the sprinkler head?

First look at the designation on top of the nozzle. Many of the nozzles have certain patterns and arcs that are non-adjustable. The only thing that can be adjusted on these fixed arc nozzles is the distance. To do this, simply turn the silver screw on the top of the nozzle to the left to increase the water flow through the nozzle. Turn it to the right to reduce the throw.

3. How do I stop leaking around the stem?

This is usually caused by debris between the wiper seal and the stem. A quick way to solve this problem is to step down lightly on the stem while the sprinkler is in operation. This causes water to flush quickly between the stem and cap, taking the debris with it. If this does not work, the cap is probably damaged and needs to be replaced.

4. How do I program or adjust my irrigation controller?

The method for adjusting irrigation controllers varies from model to model. The most efficient way to attain the most information is to take the type of controller and model number and visit the company's website. For example, at www.rainbird.com you have access to instruction manuals for specific controllers.