

CONSERVATION

Connection News

A New Season Brings New Opportunities

Spring is in the air, and a landscaper's senses are heightened by the first shoots of spring bulbs, swelling buds and the dingy red glow of a freshly dusted off dingo. As we hone the edges of our pruners and shovels, it's a great time to hone our landscape and irrigation skills or educate our new recruits, to keep up with the latest best practices for the industry. The Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is one of a few academic institutions focusing on the subjects of irrigation water management for the landscape and agriculture industry. They offer an affordable selection of online courses your business can utilize at your convenience. Some courses cost as low as \$25 and can be accessed through ITRC's website <http://www.itrc.org/classes/lwmclass.htm> or the Irrigation Associations online course offerings <https://www.irrigation.org>.

[org/IA/Education/Online-Learning/ITRC-Classes/IA/Education/ITRC_Classes](https://www.itrc.org/IA/Education/Online-Learning/ITRC-Classes/IA/Education/ITRC_Classes).

During Bend's summer months, as much as 5 million gallons a day is wasted through irrigation systems that are not functioning properly or were not inspected and programmed appropriately at spring start up. When activation time comes, what can we do to get ready for the irrigation season? Simply put, allow for time to make repairs, make adjustments to direct water onto plants, and program a realistic schedule at your season start up appointments. Activating a system and then returning later to make repairs once issues arise can be less efficient and be less profitable than if time is spent upfront to ensure a functioning system in spring. In addition to maintaining a functional system, spring is a good time to collect other site data that can help

irrigation tech's diagnose issues throughout the season. Collecting static and dynamic pressures and precipitation rates can help diagnose hydraulic issues and support scheduling changes later in the year. Also make sure isolation valves are opened completely, check for swing joints that came apart during blowouts and inspect emitters and flush filters on drip irrigation. Check out some downloadable spring tune up checklists from Ewing Irrigation and Hunter industries to help you organize your efforts.

https://www.hunterindustries.com/sites/default/files/agency-resources/contract_checklist_LIT-508.pdf

<https://www.ewingirrigation.com/pub/media/downloads/509/ServiceVisitChecklist.pdf>

<https://www.irrigation.org/IA/FileUploads/IA/Resources/LIA-worksheets.pdf>

Save the Dates

OLCA-City of Bend Pre-qualified Contractor Program Right of Way Areas & Limits

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019
12:00 - 1:00 PM**

Join us to discuss right of way areas, sidewalks, etc., who can work in those areas and what are the limits of what you can do.

Held at 62975 Boyd Acres Rd. City of Bend Utility Building.

Presented by the City of Bend.

June WaterWise Workshops at Hollinshead Park

June 12, 19 and 26
Details available soon at bendoregon.gov/conservation

New Friends and Old Favorites

With a new season comes new technology, just like our computers and cell phones, sprinkler technology is ever evolving. Some changes are monumental improvements to their predecessors while others are less notable. That being said, a smart controller on a system with bad efficiency is about as productive as a Maserati in the Baja 1000. There are several old but reliable components as well as a few of the new introductions which have potential as great water saving tools.

- PRS spray bodies- regulating the head pressure can be a benefit in multiple ways, slowing down the water emitted from the sprinkler helps reduce adverse effects such as misting and drift, thus keeping water on the plant material and off the street and slowing the flow of application.
- Preset Seasonal adjust % - A trending feature of smart or hybrid smart controllers makes the list because of their water saving capability with or without the sensor and smart features activated. For those that desire precision irrigation the smart controllers have features that let you customize your



precipitation rate, plant types and % increases for almost any situation. For those that don't want to relinquish control, the hybrid smart controller can save water in standard mode with its preprogrammed seasonal adjust % settings. This feature allows programming of an adjustment % for each month of the calendar year, saving you time and adjustments in the peak of the season. The Weathermatic SL Series, Hunter Hydrowise and Toro Evolution all have standard mode preset seasonal adjust features as well as smart capabilities.

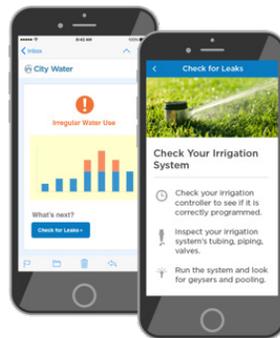
- 1800 Drip Conversion Kit- the Drip retrofit kit is a time saving way to convert small spray systems to drip irrigation, eliminating the need to cut and add a filter and regulator at the valve
- High Efficiency Nozzles- High efficiency nozzles come in many makes and models. HE nozzles are one area of

sprinkler technology that continues to improve. From the veteran Hunter



MP Rotators and Toro Precisions to the new RainBird RVAN nozzles, there is a high efficiency nozzle for every situation. An important thing to remember is that each brand has a different flow and precipitation rate and will need different runtimes to apply 1.5" of water a week to turf grass in the summer, never mix any nozzle types on the same zone. Hunter MP's (0.41 in/hr or (0.81 in/hr -800 series), Toro Precision (1.0 in/hr), RainBird RVAN (0.61 in/hr).

- WaterSmart software- Every City of Bend water customer has access to WaterSmart, a customer water use portal providing customers with hourly, daily, and annual consumption. In addition customers can set leak alerts and give viewing permission to their landscapers for managing irrigation. WaterSmart can be accessed on a home computer or mobile device at bendoregon.gov/waterSMART.



In the News

Senator Heard of Roseburg sponsored Senate Bill 935, put forth to the Senate Committee On Business and General Government on March 26th 2019. SB 935 was submitted in addition to the Limited License option (OAR 808-003-0035) which took effect February 1, 2019.

SB 935 allows irrigation work to be done by persons who have not passed an LCB exam and proposes two changes to the current program:

Modifying the Scope of Work provisions to allow irrigation work of up to four zones and a maximum of 12 gallons per minute.

Precludes general contractors from licensure, preserving this as a professional development and licensure program for the landscape construction industry.



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Send your name and email address to: conservation@bendoregon.gov



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Utility Staff at: Utilities@bendoregon.gov or 541-317-3000 ext 2; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1, and fax: 541-317-3046