

IRRIGATION SYSTEM INSPECTION FORM

STATION	FACILITY:	IRRIGATION TYPE	BROKEN HEADS	CLOGGED HEADS	MISSING HEADS	SUNKEN HEADS	HIGH VEGETATION	HEADS NOT VERTICAL	MIXED HEADS	MIXED NOZZLES	HIGH PRESSURE	LOW PRESSURE	OVERSPRAY	VARIABLE SPACING	BROKEN PIPE OR FITTINGS	OTHER	NOTES	
	CONTROLLER DESIGNATION:																	CONTROLLER LOCATION:
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SPRINKLER IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

PROBLEM	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	SOLUTIONS
Clogged/broken/ missing nozzles or heads	Brown spots. Standing water. Incorrect spray pattern. Water-stained asphalt or sidewalk.	Replace missing or broken heads and nozzles. Replace with the same type and performance head. Clean clogged nozzles. Select matched precipitation rate heads and nozzles. Institute a weekly after-mowing inspection routine.
Malfunctioning wiper seals	Water spraying from base of head.	Replace wiper seal or replace entire head with same type and brand.
Heads blocked by grass Sunken heads	Standing water. Brown spots. Reduced throw. Distorted spray pattern.	Reduce mowing height. Raise sprinkler level to the soil grade.
Head rotation out of adjustment	Brown spots. Excessively wet areas.	Adjust head so that each head is rotating correctly and at the same rate.
Heads not vertical or flush with grade	Standing water. Brown spots.	Adjust sprinklers to a vertical position that is flush with the soil grade. Compact soil tightly around the head. Swing joint installation may be required.
Mixed heads	Different spray patterns and rotations. Brown spots. Excessively wet spots.	Determine original design head and nozzle. Replace all heads with original heads and nozzles.
Low head drainage	Draining water after system is turned off. Excessively wet spot.	Install check valves at low heads.
Low pressure	Water sprays in large droplets. Rotor sprays rotate slowly. Pop-up sprays slow to rise. Green "doughnuts" around head.	Install lower flow nozzles. Make sure two stations are not operating at the same time. Increase the setting at the pressure reducing valve. Check for broken pipes or fittings. Reduce number of heads on the line and install another valve. Increase the size of line components. Install booster pump.
High pressure	Water mists, drifts, and evaporates. Overspray on paved areas.	Install pressure regulating valve. Turn the flow control stem down. Use spray nozzles with pressure compensating devices. Install pressure compensating inserts in spray head.
Overspray	Standing water on paving. Water stains and damage on paving.	Reduce pressure. Adjust arc pattern of head. Move spray heads 4-6 inches from edge of paving. Move larger radius heads 10 inches in.
Variable spacing	Brown spots. "Scallops." Excessively wet areas.	Adjust nozzles and pressure. Determine manufacturer's recommended spacing. Relocate and add heads. Or change to heads or nozzles that perform at the measured spacing and pressure.
Broken pipe or fittings	Standing water. A washed-out hole.	Fix pipe. Replace fittings with a flexible swing joint. Flush soil from system.

Source: Irrigation System Maintenance and Repair, U of A Cooperative Extension 194026, September 1995