

# Irrigation Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Irrigation Design
  - Visit the site and study the layout.
  - Take plant growth including trees and shrubs into account when designing and placing sprinklers and micro-irrigation.
  - Make sure the irrigation design strives for zero over spray onto streets, driveways, sidewalks, entrances, parking areas, etc.
  - Design spacing of sprinkler heads with a minimum of "head-to-head" coverage.
  - Use separate watering zones for areas with different water use needs.
  - Work to avoid surface runoff.
  - Where appropriate use drip irrigation to save water.
- Irrigation Installation and Testing
  - Contact appropriate local utility company to locate underground cables, telephone, gas or electric lines, etc.
  - Discuss making any changes with an irrigation system designer.
  - Make an irrigation system map.
  - Make sure the clock is set for the proper day of the week and time of day.
  - Check for any leaks.
- Inspect System
  - Repair or replace broken or missing rotor heads, spray heads, "bubblers" and drip emitters.
  - Make sure all heads pop-up all of the way and fully retract when the water is turned off.
  - Check for sprinklers blocked by grass, plants or other obstacles.
  - Make sure sprinklers are vertical and flush with the soil grade.
  - Check for proper pressure.
  - Clean or replace clogged nozzles and clean the sprinkler's trash screen, if it has one.
  - Make sure all heads direct water to landscape.