

## Drip System Maintenance for the Automatic Drip Systems in Plaza and Orchard

### Plaza:

There are two valve boxes housing the control valves for the Plaza drip system in the ground outside the windows of the parlor/exercise room (see photo 1). The boxes hold electronically controlled valves that open when directed to by the irrigation controls located underneath the big juniper tree.



*Photo 1*

There is a separate valve box for the lawn sprinklers and for the 4 zones that feed water to shrubs and trees.

### Zones:

- Zones 1 and 2 – lawn sprinklers are in the smaller valve box
- 3, 4, 5, 6 zones are in the larger valve box closest to the breezeway
- Zone 3 – northwest of plaza
- Zone 4 – southwest of plaza, plus the plazuela in front of Tai/Satara's house, Bill's house and Veet's casita
- Zone 5 – southeast of the plaza and around the fountain
- Zone 6 – trees and a portion of the path going to C placita (south side of path)

All of the zone locations are mapped in the Plaza Maintenance Plan.

The water for the system comes from a main valve that is located under the “manhole” cover that has a meter nearby. The water gets turned off and turned on to the system by turning the valve head the main valve and then at three capped pipes (see photo 2). Two “keys” (actually long metal rods) – a large one and a small one – are used to turn the valves. Both are kept in the Tool Shed.

- The right hand cap is for the main valve and turns everything off including water to the spigot.
- The middle cap turns on the water to the drip irrigation system
- The left-hand cap opens and closes the drain



*Photo 2*

Turning the system off or on requires turning a switch on the control box. ***PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH THIS SWITCH UNLESS YOU HAVE SPECIFICALLY BEEN TRAINED BY THE PLAZA IRRIGATION SYSTEM MANAGER (CURRENTLY RICH SCHRADER)!*** See photo 3 for a view of the irrigation control box.

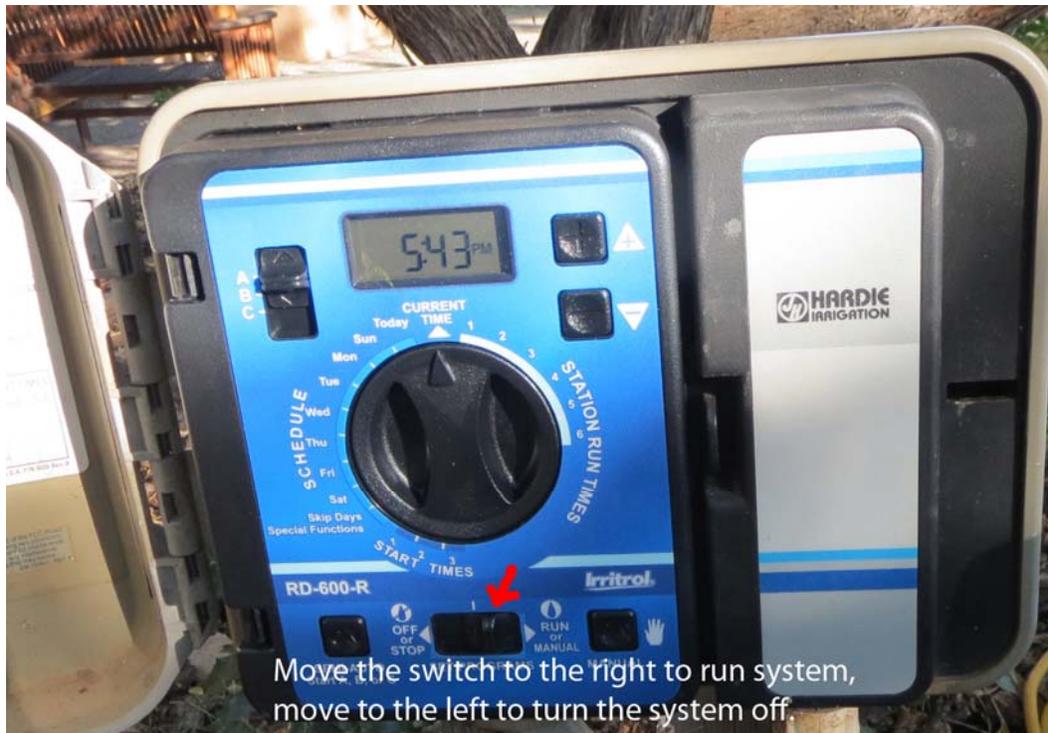


Photo 3

How to winterize and start up the plaza irrigation system --

- To winterize the system turn off the water to the drip irrigation system in the middle cap, then take off the cap on the drain and open the drain, then open the valve box closest to the breezeway and open the drain caps on the end of the manifold and at the drain pipe (orange valve knob). Open up the valves on the backflow preventer to allow water to drain. The proper way to fully drain the system is to open up all the ends of the drip lines and blow out all the water by hooking up an air compressor to the valves.
- To ready the system for summer, follow the instructions going starting from the last instruction on the winterization to the first step.

The large key is used for opening water to the whole system. The small key is used for opening and closing the middle valve to get water to the system and the drain.

You also need a flat-head screwdriver in order to drain the system by turning the three screws/valves on the backflow preventer until the balls show that they are open.

The small key goes into the left-hand drain – open it to winterize the system; close it to use the system in the summer.

## **Orchard:**

The valve box is located on the north side of the compost bins near the fence. Inside you will find two valves attached to a manifold. On one of the valves you will find the electronic control box which is programmed to run the water system.

The master valve is in the white pipe sticking out of the ground – this uses the same large key as in the plaza. There are two green pipes that allows the water to flow into the system. The green pipe closest to the white pipe turns the water on and off. The second green pipe is the drain.

There are two valves: to run the system manually open the grey valve levers on the valves. The grey valve lever pointing up is linked to the controller – turning it 90 degrees one way turns it off completely; turn it 90 degrees the other way to run the system manually.

The electronic controller needs a 9-volt battery to allow it to work and hold the programming for running the valves.

How to winterize and start up the orchard irrigation system --

To winterize the system turn off the water in the green pipe closest to the white pipe. Then, open the drain in the second green pipe. Open the cap in the manifold that has the valves attached to allow water to run out of the manifold. The proper way to fully drain the system is to open up all the ends of the drip lines and blow out all the water by hooking up an air compressor to the valves.

To ready the system for summer use, follow these steps in the opposite order. Check the 9 volt battery to see if needs replacement.