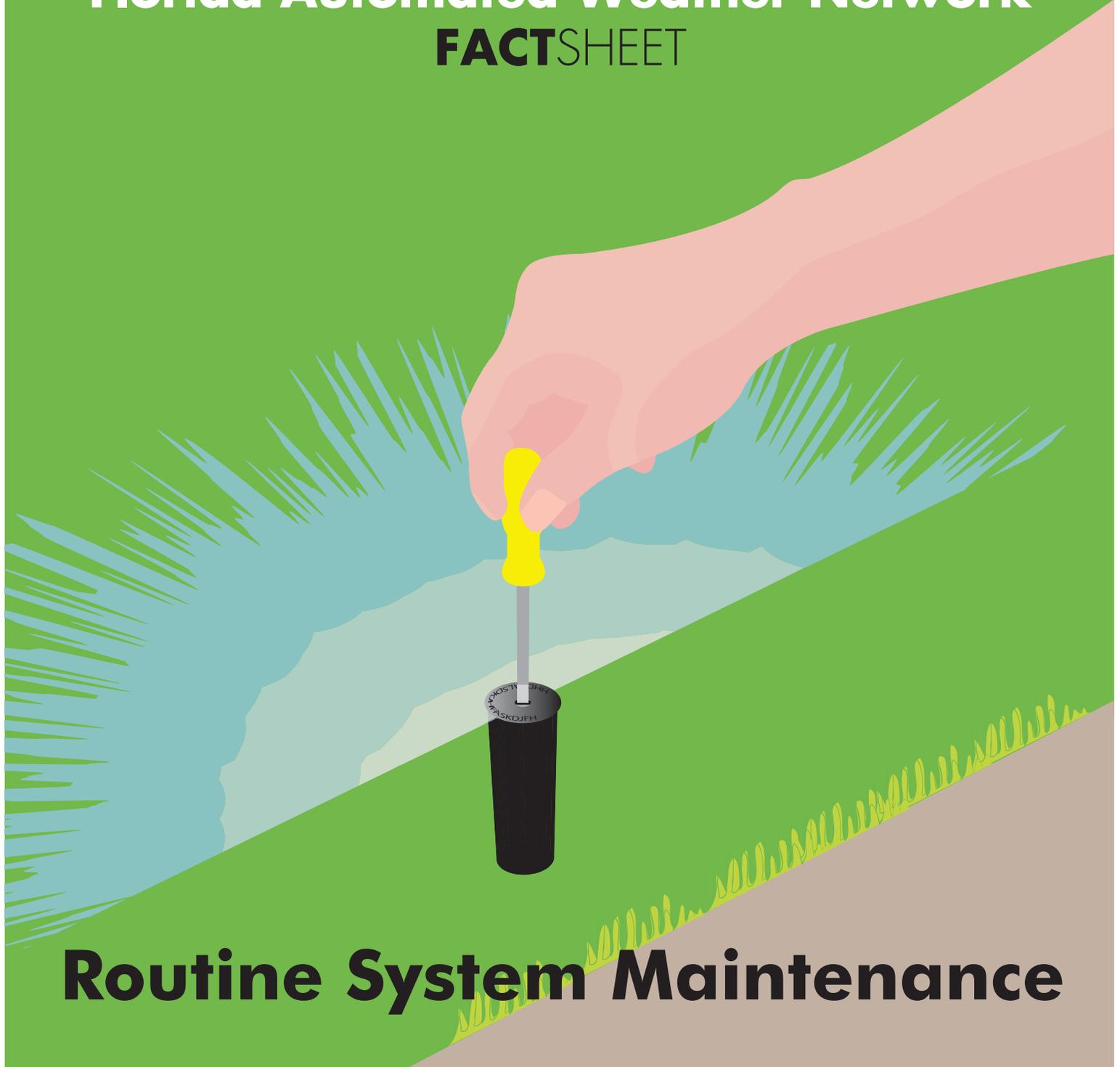




# Florida Automated Weather Network **FACTSHEET**



## **Routine System Maintenance**

## FAWN FACTS: Routine System Maintenance

Proper understanding of your time clock, installation of a rain shutoff sensor, and calibration are all important aspects of a well-functioning irrigation system. However, maintaining that system is also crucial. Clogged sprinkler heads and kinked hoses, for example, can waste water and decrease the efficiency of your system. Below are several things that you can do to ensure your system operates effectively.

**Test system.** Periodically run your system manually and inspect it for clogged/broken sprinkler heads, kinked or leaking supply hoses, and uneven water distribution (sometimes evident by checking plants for over/under watering).

**Adjust heads.** They can be easily moved by people and pets, so check your sprinkler heads for proper alignment so they are watering only the intended landscape and/or grass. Also make sure they are positioned at right angles to the soil surface for maximum efficiency. Over time, the grass canopy will grow, so make sure the heads deploy above the top of the canopy.

**Inspect and clean filters.** Sprinkler systems use filters to prevent spray nozzles and emitters from becoming clogged so check these weekly and clean/replace them as necessary.

**Inspect rain shutoff device.** Rain shutoff devices reduce wear-and-tear on your system by reducing the amount of time it runs. Make sure yours is exposed to unobstructed rainfall, and away from potential spray from the irrigation system. Test your rain shutoff device to ensure it is measuring the correct amount of rainfall. This can be done during a rainfall event by using small straight-sided cans to collect a pre-determined amount rain. Once that amount has been collected, set your device to that amount and manually engage your system. If the device is working properly, your system should not operate.

**Check controller (time clock).** Be sure to “tell” your time clock which days to water, what time to begin, and how long to water. Improper operation of your time clock can waste water and harm your lawn – too much water can cause an increase in disease, weeds, and pests. Also, check the battery and replace it, if needed.

Spending a few moments periodically to ensure your system is operating properly can save time and money, and contribute to a better landscape.

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