

10 STEP END-OF-SEASON IRRIGATION CHECKLIST

Checking your sprinkler package at the end of every season is just as essential as any maintenance and upkeep you do for other farm machinery and equipment.

- Check and Flush Your System**
Check the main pipe from the water source to the pivot for leaks. Remove the sand trap and flush the entire system for several minutes to remove debris that may plug the sprinklers.
- Check for Leaks, Flow, and Sprinkler Patterns**
Using your sprinkler package chart, verify the nozzle size for each sprinkler location matches the chart. If the nozzles are wrong, you may be over- or under-watering. If you have a flow meter, verify the readings to assure the flow matches the system design.
- Check Your Sprinkler Patterns**
Visually inspect sprinklers for consistency in their distribution patterns. Assure that sprinkler overlap is sufficient. Disassemble any sprinklers with issues and check for plugging or defective parts. Sprinklers can wear out and will stop rotating or rotate out of control.
- Check System Pressures**
Using a pressure gauge, verify your pressure at the pump, pivot point, and at the end of the pivot. Make sure it matches the sprinkler package chart. Make sure pressures from the season compare to end-of-season performance.
- Check for Leaks**
Turn the system on and check for leaks in pipes from the water source to the pivot. Also, check for possible leaking pressure regulators.
- Check Gearboxes**
With the pivot in motion, listen to each tower drive system for gearbox issues. Provide necessary maintenance or replacement.
- Check Wheels and Tires**
Verify wheel lug bolts are tight. Check tire pressure and inspect for any cracks or wear.
- Check Controls**
Test all irrigation controls and note any issues that need attention. Check any barricade stops.
- Check Yield Maps**
Examine yield maps to help identify possible irrigation issues. Depending on the location of the problem along the pivot pipeline, the economic impact of a single sprinkler problem can be significant in the amount of yield reduction it causes.
- Check Your List**
Review your list so you can address any issues you discovered.