



Testing of Weather-based Controllers June 26, 2015

Smart Water Application Technologies, a collaborative initiative between water providers and the irrigation industry, posts the performance results of tested products on its website at www.irrigation.org/SWAT. The results are publically available. SWAT provides the end-user with information about how a product performs when tested according to the SWAT created testing protocol. The end-user can then determine if a product meets their specific needs or criteria.

Weather-based controllers are tested according to the latest version of the testing protocol by a testing laboratory equipped to perform the required tests. SWAT typically works with the Center for Irrigation Technology, Fresno, California for controllers, soil moisture sensors and sprinkler products and with University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida for the testing of rain sensors. However, because most weather-based controllers have earned the EPA WaterSense label, SWAT will use the test results provided by an EPA accredited laboratory for testing of weather-based controllers that receive a WaterSense label to create a performance report to post on the SWAT website.

The process is as follows:

- 1) The manufacturer contacts SWAT and agrees to pay a non-refundable fee of \$500 to SWAT. If the test lab charges a fee to transmit the data to SWAT, that will also be the responsibility of the manufacturer.
- 2) The manufacturer shall provide written authorization to the testing lab and copying SWAT so that the lab may transmit the test data to SWAT.
- 3) The required data from the laboratory includes:
 - a. Name of testing agency
 - b. Location of weather station
 - c. Testing dates
 - d. Daily ET_o value
 - e. Rainfall values
 - f. Start time and run time for each irrigation event
- 4) SWAT will process the data to calculate the daily soil moisture balance and determine the irrigation adequacy and excess for each of the six hydrozones in the test protocol.
- 5) SWAT reviews the results and the performance report with the manufacturer.
- 6) After written authorization from the manufacturer, SWAT will post the report to the SWAT website.
- 7) The product in the posted performance report must be currently available for purchase and end-users can easily obtain publically available sources of product information including where to buy.
- 8) The posted results are good for three years and the process shall repeat. The products with the most current test results shall be shown first, and IA member manufacturer results are listed ahead of nonmember products.
- 9) Performance Reports with results older than 3 years, or the product is no longer available for purchase will be justification for SWAT to remove the reports from the SWAT website.

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