

In recent years, the focus of the irrigation industry has been on saving water through rotating nozzles and weather based controllers. What about the rest of the system? This presentation aims to highlight conservation opportunities and cost savings associated with less flashy part of the system: pipe, fittings, and check valves.

Sound design at the residential level using low flow nozzles opens up all sorts of opportunities to save on wasting larger pipe and larger fittings. Using check valves adds to the savings in water cost over time.

### Pipe

General practice for irrigation design is to use one size pipe for irrigation systems and usually over sized by quite a bit. Yet with todays low flow rotary nozzles smaller pipe can now be used. This conservation design method uses less plastic and saves material costs.

100' 3/4 SCH 40 PVC BE PIPE 19.78

100' 1 SCH 40 PVC BE PIPE 28.59

Savings \$8.81 or close to a \$10 dollar bill



### Fittings

The associated smaller fittings are also less in cost and in some cases (1/3 cheaper in price).

1/2 PVC 90 ELL SS \$0.22

quarter



3/4 PVC 90 ELL SS \$0.33

quarter and a dime



1 PVC 90 ELL SS \$0.44

2 quarters



### Check valves

PROS-06 HUNTER 6IN POPUP SPRAY \$ 5.78

PROS-06-CV HUNTER 6 IN CHK POP \$7.59



Cost of check valve: \$ 1.81

Check valves can dramatically preserve water in the laterals year round, rather than letting the water out of the system each cycle. It is time to start considering the whole irrigation system as an opportunity to conserve!