



FALL 2003 SPECIALS

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MATCH PRECIPITATION RATES ON ROTOR INSTALLATIONS

If you use spray heads over and over, it is easy to forget that each nozzle made by the major irrigation manufacturers (Toro, Rainbird, Weathermatic, etc) already has "matched precipitation". This means, for example, that a 15 ft. half-circle nozzle puts out exactly one-half as much water volume as a 15 ft. full-circle. To take it a step further, the whole series of nozzles is matched even across different sets of radius nozzles. So a set of heads with 10 ft. nozzles using square head-to-head (or triangular) spacing will put down the same amount of water per square inch of surface as a set of heads with 15 ft. nozzles spaced head-to-head (or triangular). So as long as you space the heads properly, matching precipitation is already done for you when using spray heads.

Using single-stream rotors, on the other hand, requires you to do the matching of precipitation yourself. If you install within one valve zone the industry's most common rotor, the Hunter PGP, for example, and use all #6 nozzles, then you will use 2.7 gpm per head (assuming 50 psi). The problem is that heads being used as full-circle arcs and those being used as say half-circle arcs are putting out the same 2.7 gpm but the full-circle heads are covering twice the surface area as the half-circle heads. Therefore, the precipitation rate is higher over the areas reached by the half-circle heads. This lack of uniformity will lead to classic over-watering versus under-watering problems within the same valve zone.

If separate arcs cannot be put on separate valve zones (and therefore run for different lengths of time), then you must select the appropriate nozzle to match the precipitation yourself. An example of this would be using the Hunter PGP #9 nozzle for the full-circles (5.5 gpm at 50 psi), #6 nozzles for the half-circles (2.7 gpm at 50 psi), and #3 or #4 nozzles for the quarter-circles (1.2 or 1.6 gpm at 50 psi). Most rotors have a nozzle adjustment screw if you need to make up for differences in radius between different nozzles. Since the gpm's of these nozzles is roughly proportional to the surface area being wetted, the overall precipitation rate will be matched.

HAROLD CLAPPERTON TO RETIRE AT THE END OF 2003

One of Aqua-Flo's most senior employees will retire from his position as Inside Sales in the Ojai branch at the end of 2003. After a career as a firefighter with the Ventura County Fire Dept., Harold joined Aqua-Flo in 1981. His technical and mechanical knowledge have served his customers very well over those 22 years. He has seen the company grow from two branches and 15 employees to seven branches and 65 employees. Although Harold provided excellent service to customers, he frequently found the time to pull off many well-planned practical jokes on co-workers. He livened up company functions with hideous trophies, hearty laughs and some tall fishing stories. We will certainly miss Harold's efforts and his sense of humor. Hopefully, if the fishing isn't good, and the motor home breaks down, we can talk Harold into working part time in the future.

CLOSED FOR INVENTORY AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

All seven Aqua-Flo branches will be closed for our annual physical inventory count on Saturday, October 25, 2003. All branches will also be closed on Thursday, November 27th, 2003 for the Thanksgiving Holiday. However, we will be open our regular hours on Friday, November 28th from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 30th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.