

## **Rain Sensors**

The City of Lake Oswego offers all water customers the opportunity to purchase a rain sensor for \$5.00. Rain sensors have been on the market since around 1980. They are an important water management tool in that they prevent irrigation during and immediately after a rain event. Many municipalities across the nation and many states as well, either require or are currently offering legislation mandating rain sensors be installed on all irrigation systems.

Rain sensors are manufactured by the majority of irrigation manufacturers, and virtually all of the models utilize similar technology; hence any of the models made by any of the manufacturers will work on virtually all models of electric controllers. (Battery operated timers require a different type) In fact, rain sensors have become so prominent in the industry that most of the irrigation controllers manufactured since the late 90's have built in rain sensor connections as a standard feature.

## **How they work**

Rain sensors contain wafers made of absorbent material located inside the rain sensor housing. As the rain falls, the wafers begin to enlarge and gain weight – similar to a sponge. When the appropriate amount of water has fallen, the weight and expanded size of the wafer opens a contact, preventing the completion of a circuit to the valves. Basically a fault is created in the electrical system to the valves that prevents them from operating. When the wafers dry out (24 to 48 hrs) they will lighten and shrink in size allowing the contact to close and the system returns to normal operation. They will not affect the programming of your timer or your schedule.

## **Installation**

Rain sensors are very simple to install. A booklet with step by step instruction for installation is provided with each purchase. When rain sensors are installed correctly and appropriately located, they are virtually trouble free. If you have a landscape provider and they express concerns about installing rain sensors, please have them contact the Water Conservation Specialist at 503-675-3747. We will be happy to discuss any issues they may be facing.

