

look for



Soil Moisture-Based Irrigation Control Technologies

More than 28 million homes across the United States have in-ground sprinkler systems, and most of those systems schedule watering with some sort of clock-timed device. As a result, many homeowners waste water by irrigating their landscapes when they may not need it. Experts estimate that as much as half the water we use outdoors may go to waste due to inefficient irrigation methods and systems.

SENSOR SMART

Soil moisture sensors (SMSs) are a technology that can detect the amount of moisture in the ground beneath the landscape and keep sprinkler systems from watering when plants don't need it. This smart technology can override scheduled irrigation when the soil has plenty of moisture, which helps reduce water waste and promotes plant health. By providing real-time information about the moisture available in the soil, these smart technologies help avoid overwatering while still allowing customization.

Soil moisture sensors work in any variety of climates and soil types. They can be purchased as stand-alone controllers, with the soil moisture programming integrated into the irrigation controller, or as "add-on" or "plug-in" devices that can be used in conjunction with an existing clock-timed controller to help it water more efficiently.

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS

EPA is adding SMSs to its suite of WaterSense labeled landscape irrigation products to help residential and commercial landscape irrigation systems save water. Along with [WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controllers](#) and [WaterSense labeled spray sprinkler bodies](#), they will provide consumers with a variety of smart irrigation technology options that can reduce water waste outdoors and promote plant health.

EPA anticipates that, once the specification is finalized and these products can earn the WaterSense label,



Soil moisture sensor image courtesy of Hunter Industries, Inc.

installing a WaterSense labeled SMS can save an average home with an automatic landscape irrigation system more than 15,000 gallons of water annually. In the future, replacing clock-timers in all residential irrigation systems across the United States with soil moisture sensors that earn the WaterSense label could save more than 390 billion gallons of water each year.

LOOK FOR THE WATERSENSE LABEL IN THE FUTURE!

Once EPA finalizes its specification for soil moisture sensors, homeowners and landscapers can look for WaterSense labeled SMSs to help save water outdoors! For more information, visit

www.epa.gov/watersense/soil-moisture-based-control-technologies.

