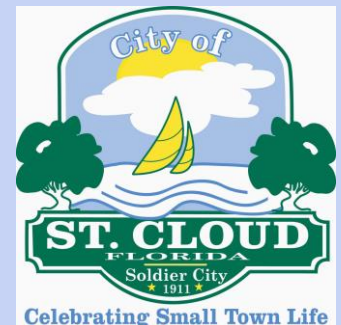


# Using Your Sprinkler System Efficiently

Brought to you by



# What you'll learn today...

- How to program your
- irrigation controller to:
  - Save water and money
  - Apply the right amount of water to your landscape plants



# Checking your irrigation system

- When do you have water available?



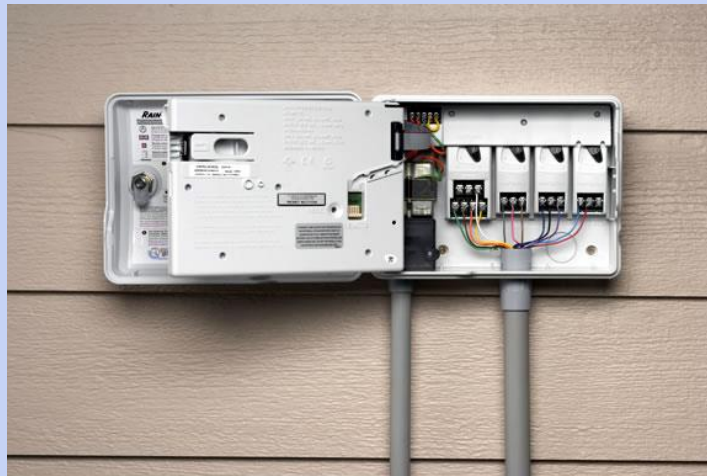
# Before you go outside...

- Hat/sunscreen
- Clothes that can get wet
- Marking flags / marker
- Checklist / pencil
- Gloves
- Trowel



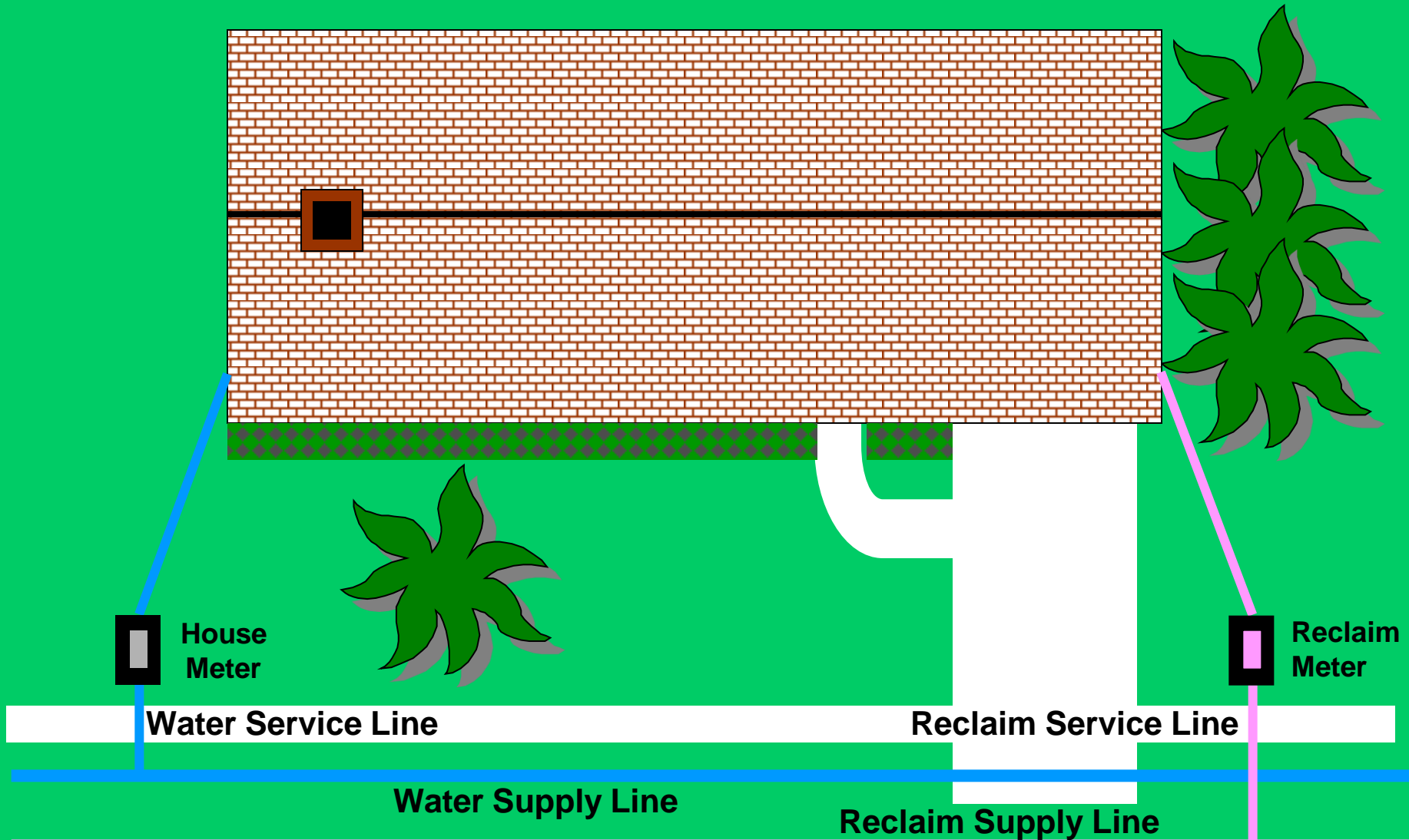
# Checking your irrigation system

- Change the battery in your irrigation controller



(A battery saves your programs  
if the electricity goes out!)

# METERS

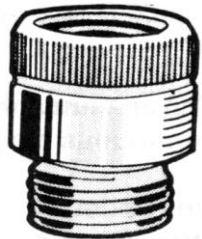






## METERS

Check for leaks

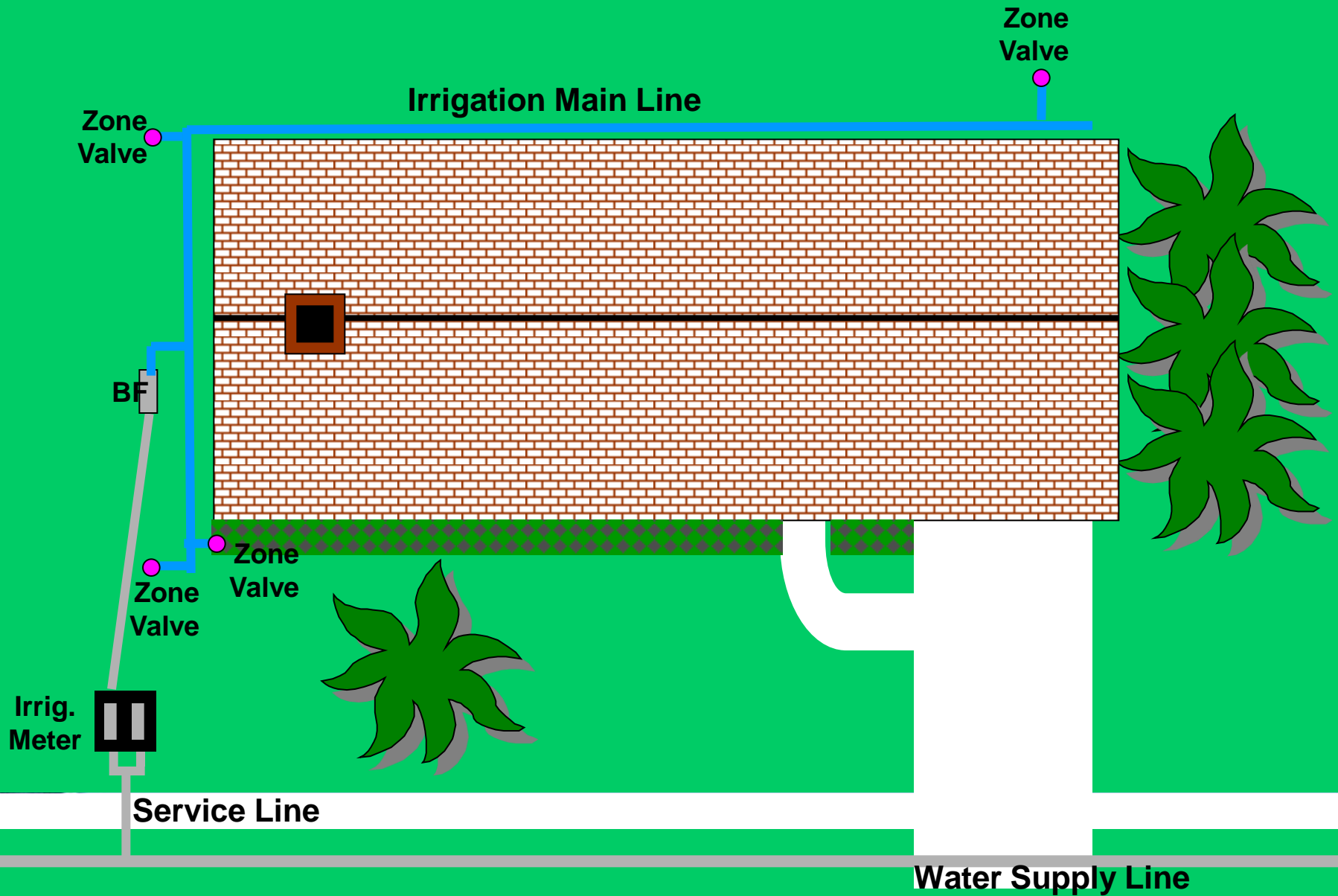


HOSE BIBB VACUUM BREAKER  
No. 8

## BACKFLOW PREVENTER

- On drinking water lines
- Needs to be tested annually by professional

# ZONE VALVES



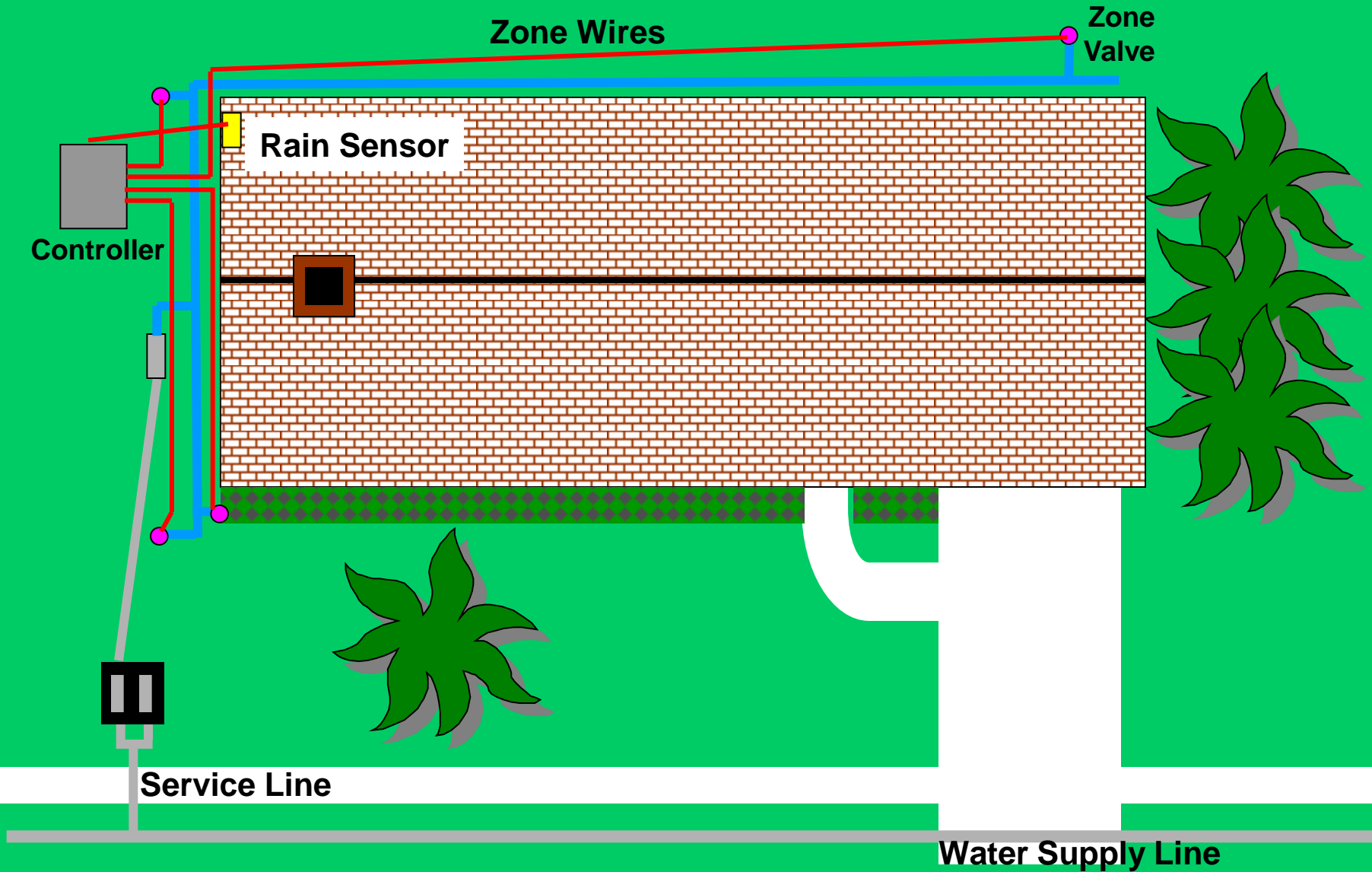




## ZONE VALVES

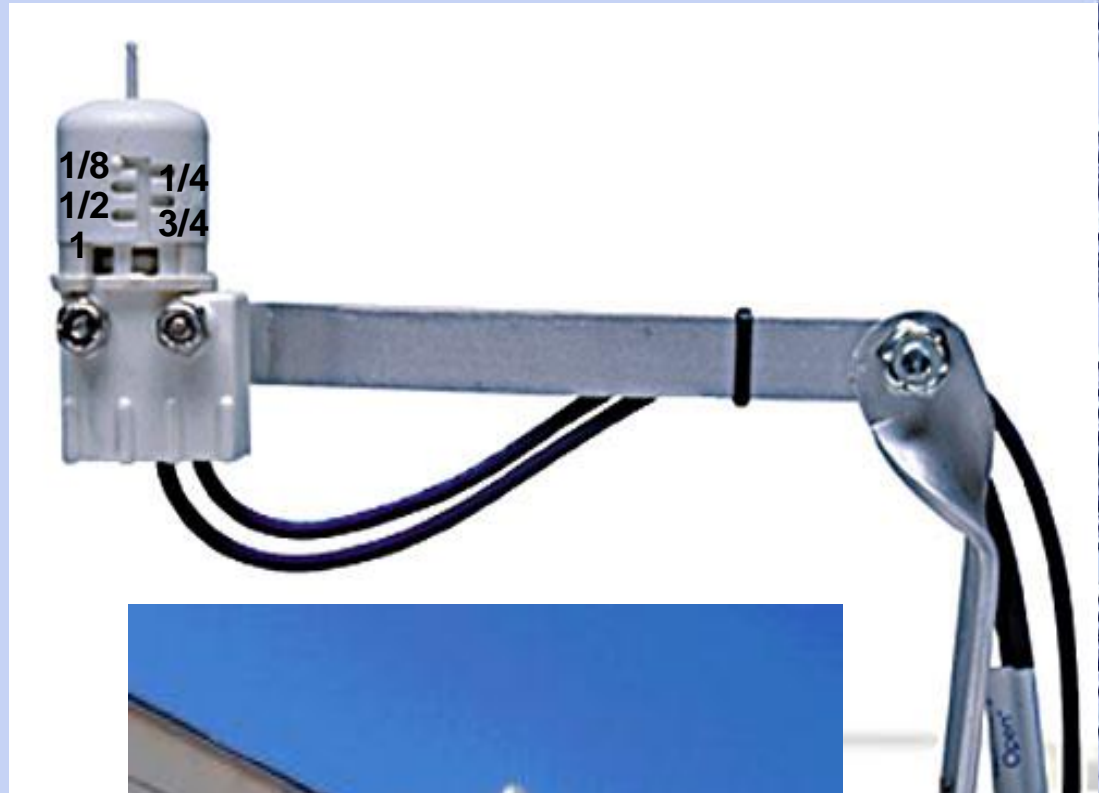


# RAIN SENSOR

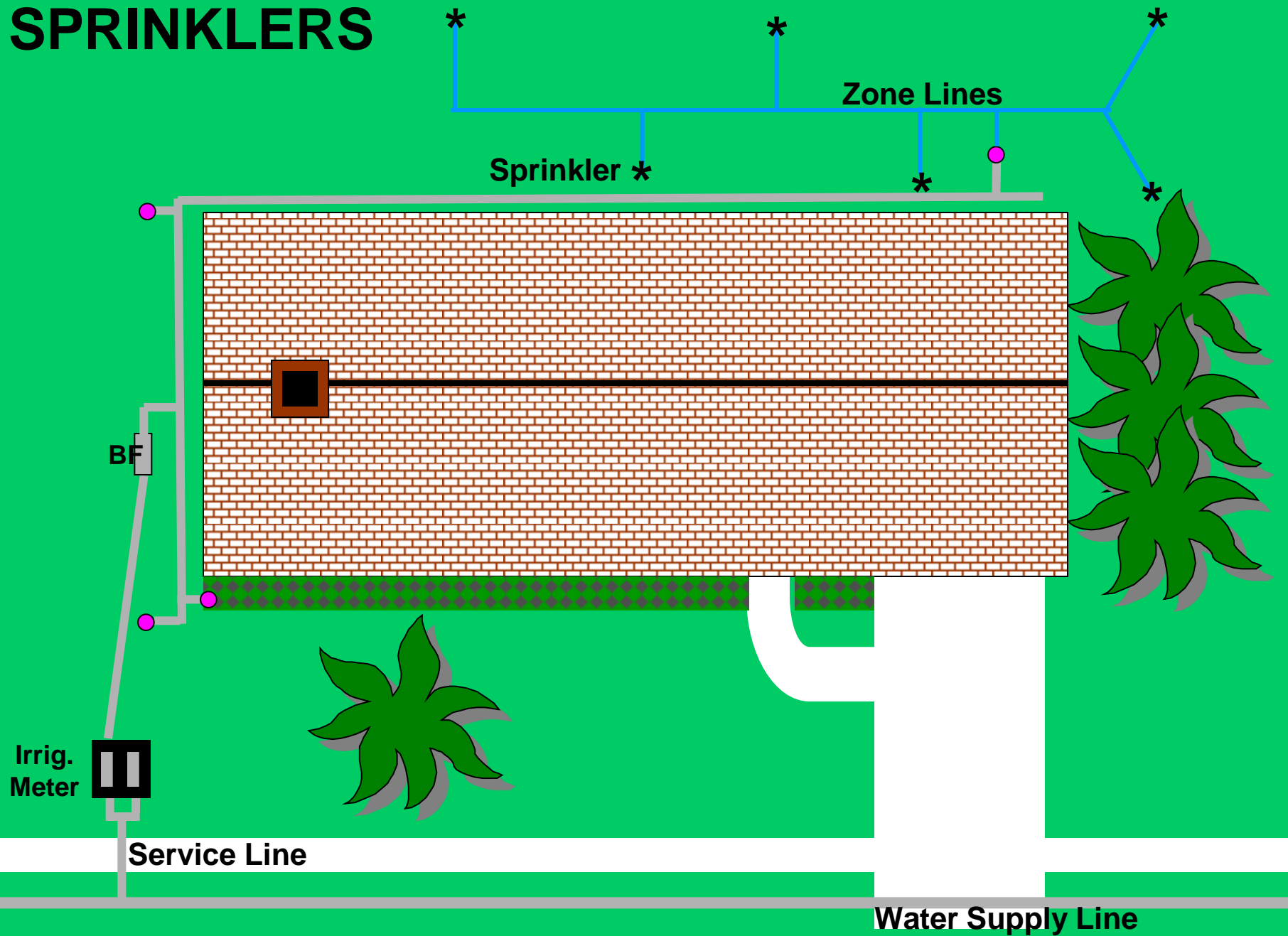


# Rain sensors

- Functions
- Placement
- Set it
- Test it
- Replace it?



# SPRINKLERS





# Rotors or Sprayers?



# Have rotors AND sprayers?

- Replace heads in that zone with *stream rotors*





# How long to run each irrigation zone

The goal:

apply 1/2-3/4 inch of water  
every time you irrigate

(See “Homeowner Homework” handout)



# How to tell if grass needs watered:

- Grass blades fold
- Imprints stay in grass
- Grass turns blue-grey





# How many days per week to water

## **For lawns:**

- Warm months—no more than twice/week
- Cool months—no more than once/week
- As needed...

## **For trees/shrubs:**

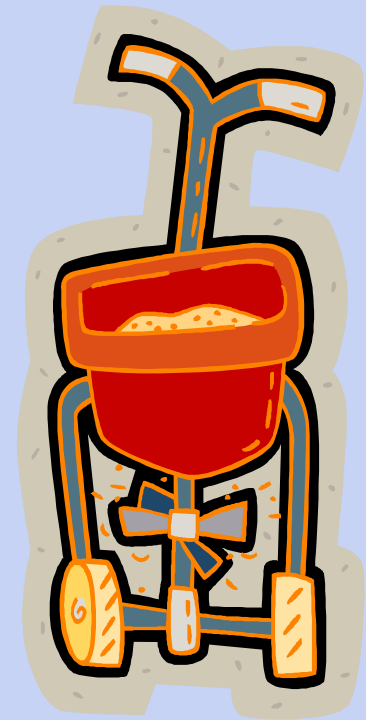
- If watered separate from lawn,  
maybe never...

# Prevent Water Pollution

- “water in after application”  
=  $\frac{1}{4}$ ”

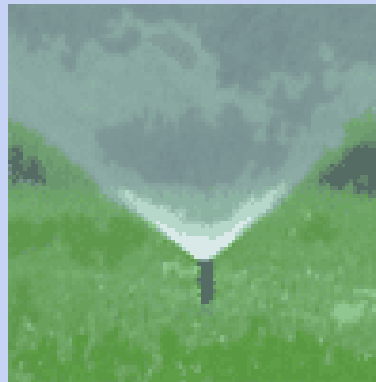
- Use 50% on your  
irrigation controller

(you can't control the rain!)



# ***IMPORTANT:***

make any necessary  
irrigation system adjustments or repairs  
before programming irrigation controller



# Programming your irrigation controller

- Rain sensor activated
- Set water % to 100
- Current date/day/time
- Use Program “A”
  - Delete functions in other programs!
- Watering days (days of the week)
- Run time per zone/station
  - Total run time? →
- Start time
  - Only use 1 start time!!!!!!!!!!!!

## *Example-*

*(Not your irrigation schedule!!)*

Wednesday & Saturday

5:30am-8:00am

Zone 1 – 25 min.

Zone 2 - 25 min

Zone 3 - 30 min

Zone 4 – 30 min

Total time ?





# Don't set it and forget it!

- Questions???