



Thunderstorm Survival Tips for Irrigation Systems

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It's still hot out there and won't be cooling off anytime soon. Tucson gardens in August require quite a bit of extra attention. As we hope for more summer monsoon rain, it is crucial to make certain our irrigation systems are working properly. The same storms that bring us much desired moisture can also wreak havoc on irrigation timer control boxes.

Every summer we see lawns and gardens suffering from lack of water due to the timers/controllers getting "knocked out" by nearby lightning strikes or power blackouts. While most timers have a battery backup to keep the program in memory until power can be restored, there is still a chance that information will be lost. In the case of a lightning strike or power surge, the timer could be ruined as a worst case scenario. At the very least, it may erase the program.

Some timers have factory default settings that typically run for 5-15 minutes once a day. As many of you desert gardeners know, this does not begin to cover the amount of water your plants need to survive, let alone thrive! It is important to keep a record of your watering schedule on paper or on your computer.

After experiencing storm activity, check your timer/controller to make sure that your settings are still intact. This will save you from the heartache of having your garden or landscape plants suffer or even die from lack of water.