

HOW-TO PREPARE YOUR

IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR WINTER

Winter in New Zealand is a breathtaking wonderland straight out of a fairy tale. As the temperatures drop and frosty winds sweep through rugged landscapes, a sense of serenity blankets the country's colder regions. However, as captivating as cuddling up under a cozy blanket can be, freezing temperatures are dangerous for growers, gardeners, landscapers and home owners alike.

Preparing your irrigation system for winter is an vital task to protect it from potential damage caused by freezing temperatures. Here are some steps you can take to prepare your irrigation system for winter:

TURN OFF THE WATER SUPPLY

Shut off the water supply to your irrigation system at the main water valve. This will prevent water from flowing into the system and potentially freezing and causing damage.

DRAIN THE WATER FROM THE SYSTEM

Open all the drain valves and allow the water to drain from the system. This includes draining the mainline, lateral lines, and any low points in the system. You can use compressed air to blow out any remaining water from the system. Be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions and use caution when using compressed air.

DISCONNECT HOSES AND STORE THEM

If you have any hoses connected to your irrigation system, disconnect them. Store the hoses in a dry place to prevent freezing and damage.

CHECK FOR LEAKS AND REPAIRS

Before winter arrives, inspect your irrigation system for any leaks, damaged pipes, or broken sprinkler heads. Make repairs as needed to ensure your system is in good condition.

INSULATE EXPOSED PIPES

If you have any exposed pipes in your irrigation system, such as above-ground backflow preventers, wrap them with insulation to protect them from freezing. You can use pipe insulation or insulated tape to cover the pipes and keep them warm.

PROTECT VALVES AND CONTROLLERS

If your irrigation system has valves or controllers above ground, protect them by covering them with insulation or moving them to a protected area, such as a garage or shed.

SHUT OFF AND DRAIN THE PUMP

If you have a pump in your irrigation system, shut it off and drain it according to the manufacturer's instructions. This may involve disconnecting hoses, draining the pump and storing it in a dry place to prevent freezing.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

By taking these steps to prepare your irrigation system for winter, you can help protect it from freezing temperatures and potential damage. Proper winterization will ensure your irrigation system is ready to function optimally when spring arrives!