

This presentation premiered at WaterSmart Innovations

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Landscape Irrigation Efficiency

A Web-Based Tutorial



An online solution to
smart landscape irrigation training

WaterSmart08 Innovations Conference and Exposition
October 8 – 10, 2008

Metropolitan Water District

- Provides supplemental water to southern California
 - State Water Project
 - Colorado River
- 5,200 square mile service area
- 18 million population
- 26 member agencies



Professional Training

- Classes began 1994
- Targeting landscape workers
 - Irrigation Principles, Adjustment and Repair
 - Troubleshooting
 - Controller Programming
 - Irrigation Scheduling
- English and Spanish classes



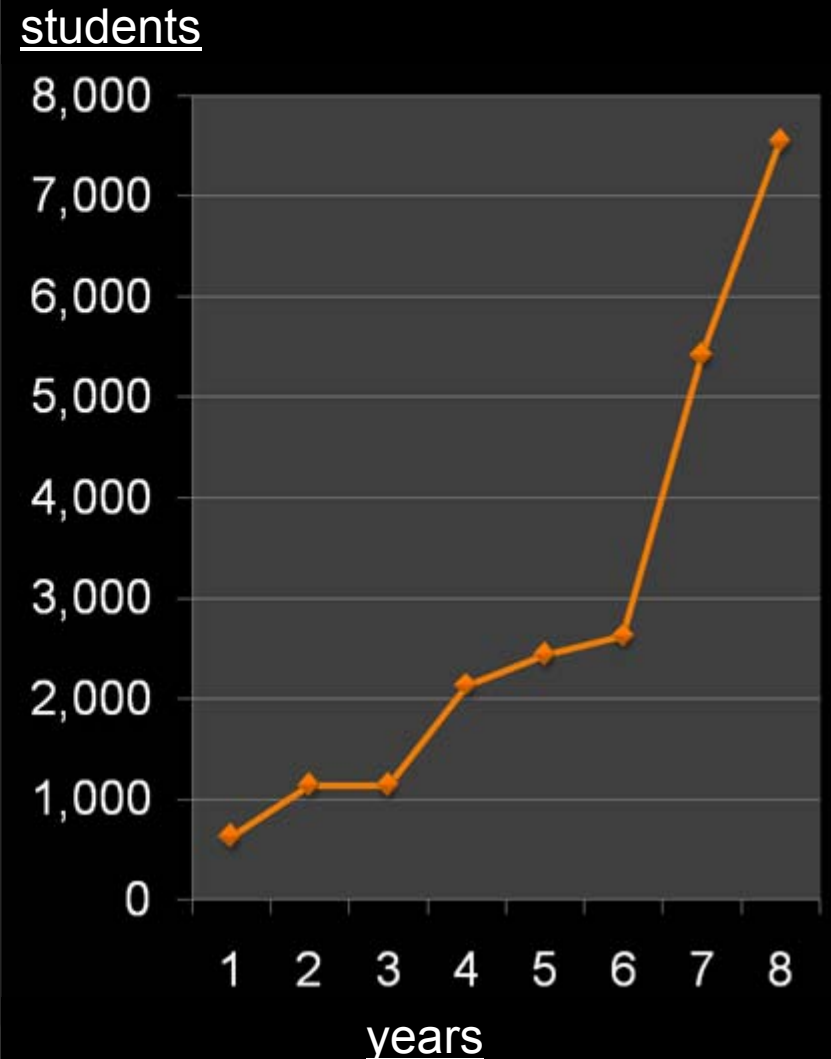
Residential Training

- Request by homeowners
 - Landscape Design Basics
 - Plant Selection
 - Efficient Irrigation Systems
 - Plant Care
- Request for condensed class
 - Added 4-hour mini class
- Overwhelming number of class requests



Irrigation Efficiency Training

- Over 50,000 students
- Demand exceeded budget
- Limited number of instructors
- Student flexibility



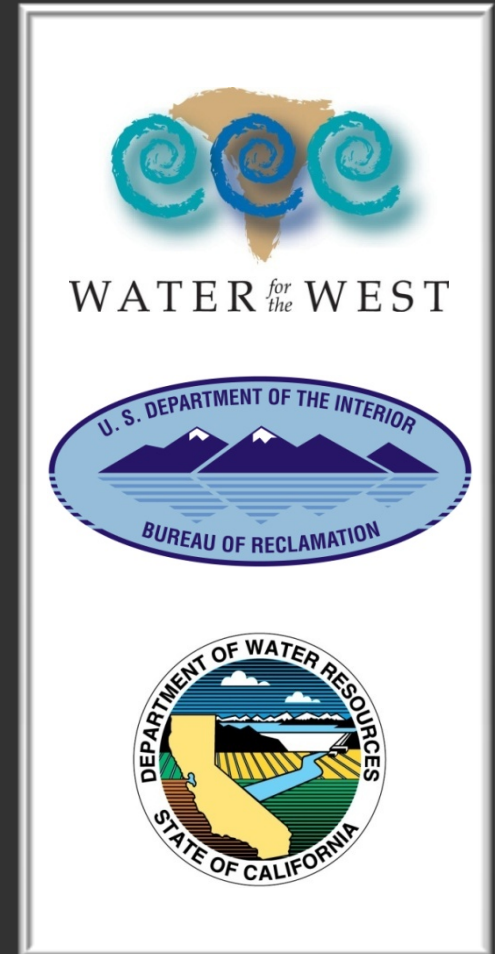
Solution / Benefits



- Online training based on a proven winner
- Online training can benefit more individuals
- Allow students to proceed at their own pace
- Supplement classroom instruction
- Converted all classes over three-year period

Funding

- First class funded by Metropolitan
 - Short online class for homeowners
- Subsequent classes funded through local, state and federal grants
 - Water for the West
 - Prop. 50 through DWR
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Total project cost \$331,000
- Total grant funding \$152,500



Web Class Development

- Based on classroom content
- Selected vendor with proven track record for developing online training
- Consulted with subject matter experts



Participation

- First class posted July 2005
- Two residential classes posted Feb. 2007
- Completed residential and professional fall of 2008
- 6,255 individual visitors to date
 - 34 U.S. states
 - 17 Countries

Uploading to the Web

- Use existing website
 - <http://www.bewaterwise.com>
- Survey Monkey for survey questions
 - <http://www.surveymonkey.com>
- Survey to collect participant data
 - Required data
 - City, state, zip code
 - Optional data
 - Name, address, email address, irrigation system questions

Professional Classes

Irrigation Principles & System Troubleshooting

Lesson 1 - 3

- Importance of efficient irrigation
- System hardware
- System performance

Lesson 1 - 3

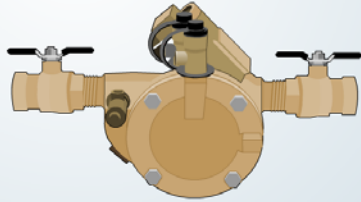
- Mechanical troubleshooting
- Electrical concepts
- Electrical troubleshooting

Irrigation Principles Quit

Irrigation System Hardware Page 6 of 32

One reduced pressure backflow preventer is installed per

- A ☐ Valve
- B ☐ Four valves
- C ☐ Eight valves
- D ☒ System**

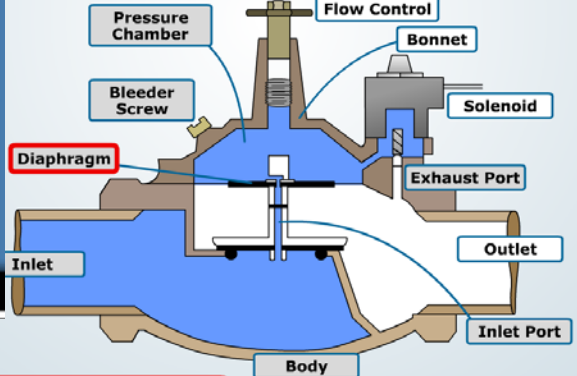


Yes! There is typically one reduced pressure backflow preventer installed per system.

Menu Back Replay Next

System Troubleshooting Quit

Mechanical Troubleshooting of an Irrigation System Page 3 of 25



This component flexes up and down to allow the valve to open or close.

Menu Back Replay Next

Professional Classes

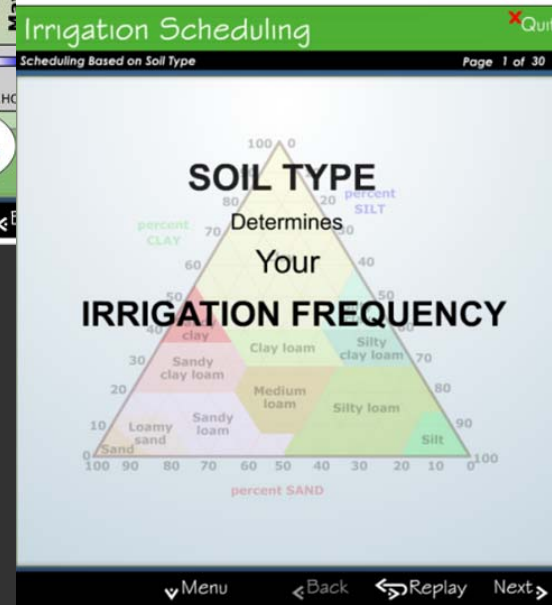
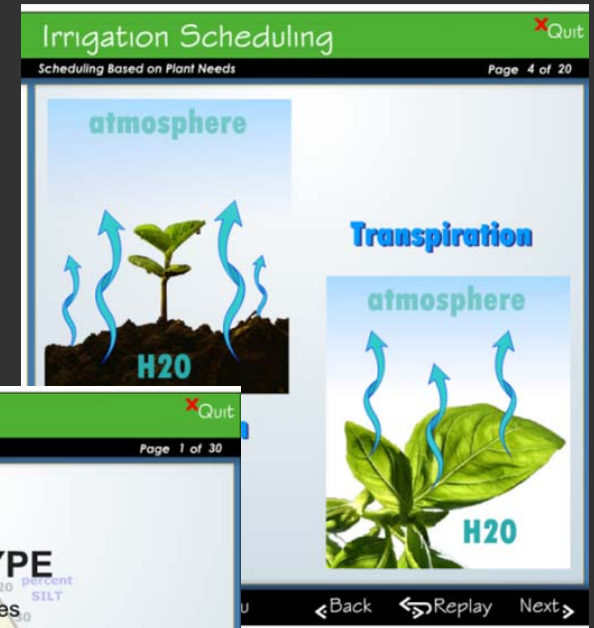
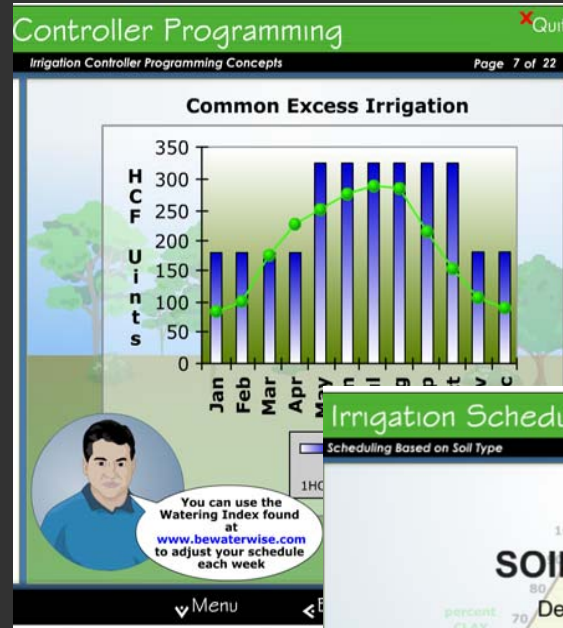
Controller Programming & Irrigation Scheduling

Lesson 1 - 3

- Programming concepts
- Programming
- Special features

Lesson 1 - 2

- Scheduling based on:
 - Weather
 - Plant needs
 - Soil type
 - Irrigation system
- Creating a schedule



Spanish Version

All professional classes

- Irrigation Principles
 - System Troubleshooting
 - Controller Programming
 - Irrigation Scheduling
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- Principios sobre riego
 - Identificación de problemas del sistema de riego
 - Programación del controlador
 - Programación de reigo



Residential Classes

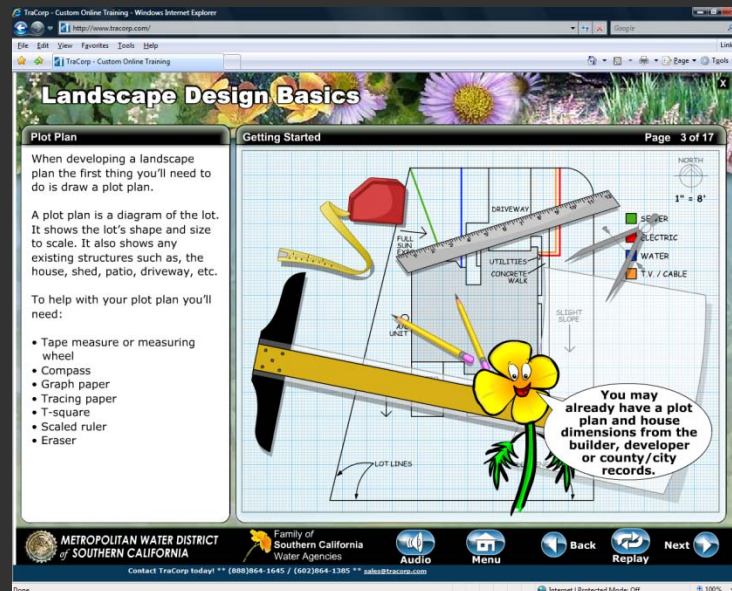
Landscape Design & Plant Selection

Lesson 1 - 3

- Getting started
- Designing with plants
- Shaping the landscape

Lesson 1 - 3

- Plant characteristics
- Planting & maintenance
- Plant types



Residential Classes

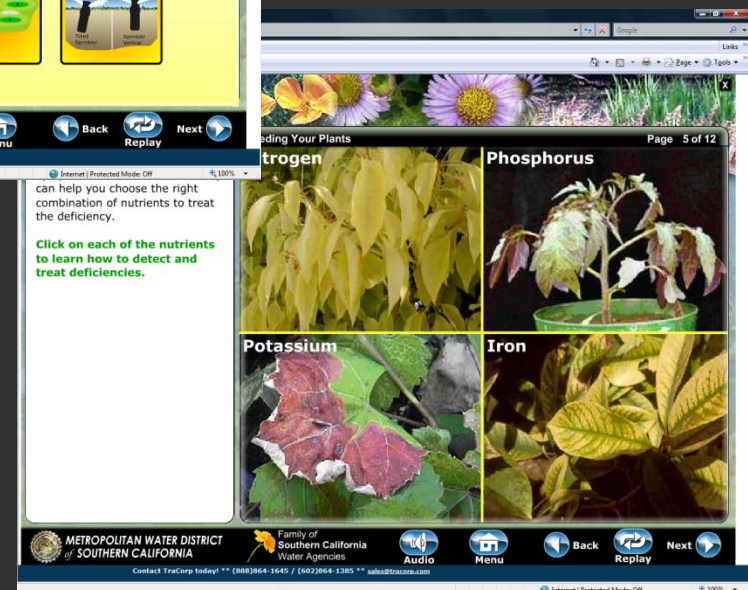
Irrigation Systems & Plant Care

Lesson 1 - 4

- Overview
- Components
- Layout
- Maintenance

Lesson 1 - 3

- Analyzing your soil
- Creating a water schedule
- Feeding your plants



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