



Desert Caballeros Western Museum

Wickenburg Landscape is very proud to once again be involved with the Desert Caballeros Western Museum and volunteer our services as part of our company's plan to give back and help make our community look its best for both our residents and visitors. Prior to this year's big event, Cowgirl Up, we were able to enhance the south side of the museum's main building and with new plantings and cacti.

One of the ideas was to create a realistically plausible environment with the mining equipment by adding granite rocks to and around the ore carts. People walking by now get a sense of what it was like in the mid 1800's filling the ore carts by hand and pushing them down small rails and dumping them. We

Transitioning to full sun

There are certain plants such as star jasmine that are typically considered shade plants which can be transitioned to full sun if done appropriately. Not all shade plants are capable of making this transition but certain varieties can make this jump if they have a little bit of help and the right kind of care. Most if not all plants that can make this transition are grown in full shade and then transitioned to the sun but not from the sun to the shade.

Two of the most commonly transitioned plants we deal with here in Wickenburg are star jasmine and sago palms. With both of these plants during the transition period, which is usually the first summer, they will usually need some shade cloth. If the plant isn't going to be in all day full sun you might be able to get away with covering the plant with 30% shade



also were able to bring in some new cacti to add to the growing collection around the museum to give visitors a sense of the beauty that our Sonoran Desert has to offer.

This past month the planting areas around the new cultural learning center have started to bloom and show off

some of their spring beauty which we have all come to enjoy. So in the coming season please stop by our world-renowned museum, walk the grounds, and visit both the new cultural center, the main building, and step back into the rich history that our small little town of Wickenburg has been eagerly awaiting to share with you.

cloth during the hot summer months.

Shade cloth is graded on how shade the cloth provides; 30% shade cloth provides 30% more shade, 60% shade cloth 60% shade and so on. If the plant is going to be in full sun all afternoon long the first summer might need to be 60-85% shade cloth and the second summer taking the shade down to 30%.

The old leaves will typically burn and as the new leaves come out they will be adjusted to location. These plants making this transition will need extra fertilizer and possibly additional water to keep them strong to help fend off pests during this very stressful year in their life.

These transition times can be hard for plants, just try to put yourself in your plants shoes and realize it's going to be a rough year or two so be gentle and show some plant compassion.

Irrigation Valves

part 1

Irrigation valves are most commonly turned on by using a controller. These are either battery operated or they are powered by standard 110 volt electricity. A valve that is controlled by a battery operated clock functions slightly different than one that is controlled by 110 volt electricity.

A battery operated irrigation valve is sent a burst of electricity which opens the solenoid on the top of the valve and a latch holds the solenoid open until another burst of electricity released the latch thus closing the solenoid which in turn shuts down the irrigation valve.

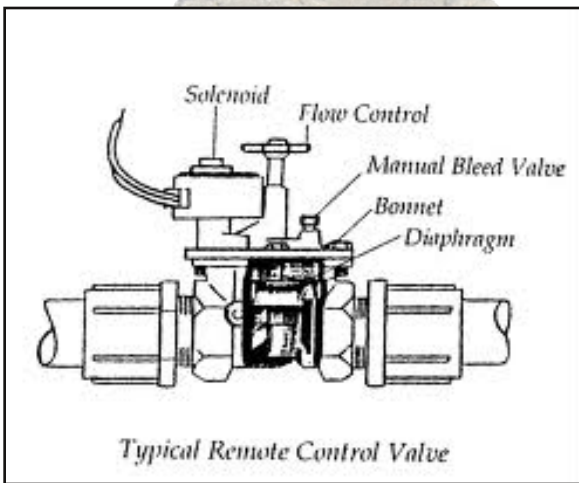
A standard irrigation controller is powered by 110 volt electricity and utilizes a transformer to reduce

the power to 24 volts to allow us to safely work on the valves without risk of getting shocked. When the controller sends a signal to turn on an irrigation valve electrical current from the controller is released to the solenoid which then acts as an electromagnet and turns on. The solenoid remains on as long as the controller supplies the power.

So now we have covered the basics on how an irrigation valve operates let us describe the two basic types of valves that are commonly used today. A dirty water or scrubber valve is specially designed to open

and close with debris such as sand and sediment in the water. The valve does this by keeping the rubber diaphragm clean of debris while the valve is opening and closing. A standard valve lacks this ability and will get "stuck" on if any debris even as small as a grain of sand is trapped by the rubber diaphragm during its closing cycle. This is what makes an irrigation valve constantly leak and this will continue leaking until the diaphragm is replaced. As discussed in a previous issue a main line filter will keep these issues from happening during normal use.

In conclusion the irrigation valve is the unit that turns on and off water which is sent to our plants and can be turned on both manually and electronically. Properly designed and maintained irrigation valves in our hard water climate should last you about 12-15 years with trouble-free use giving us the peace of mind to plant trees and shrubs without fear of the scorching summer heat killing them the first week we are gone for the summer or leave on vacation.



Typical Remote Control Valve



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