**State Guidance Concerning Lawn Irrigation Systems**

Lawn irrigation systems, both commercial and residential, are recognized by the State of Tennessee, Division of Water Supply as an actual and potential cross-connection to a public water system. The contact between the sprinkler heads and the soil or submergence of sprinkler heads allows a connection between the potable water system and water of unknown or unsafe quality.

Soil and standing water in contact with the sprinkler heads poses a significant risk of containing E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, other pathogens, and hazardous chemicals used for lawn care. Many lawn irrigation systems use toxic chemicals injected in the piping to fertilize and eliminate undesired plants.

Required Protection for Lawn Irrigation Systems by Public Water Systems:

* For public water systems to protect their distribution lines, lawn irrigation systems are protected by a **Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly** or **Reduced Pressure Principle Detector Assembly**.
* Double Check Valves cannot be used for premise isolation on lawn irrigation systems. Double Check Valves may be used for non-health hazards only. Water which contains or may contain pathogens or harmful chemicals is considered a health hazard and must be protected by a **Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly** or **Reduced Pressure Principle Detector Assembly** only.
* Pressure vacuum breakers, Spill-resistant vacuum breaker, and atmospheric vacuum breakers may not be used to protect the public water system’s main-line piping or distribution system. These devices are point-of-use devices and may not be used for premise isolation.
* Assemblies must be tested annually.
* Assemblies on lawn irrigation systems must be tested during the start-up period (typical maximum time limit is within 90 days). Annual testing just prior to winterization or seasonal shutdown is not acceptable. Testing may also be initially staggered in order to reduce problems with scheduling tests.