



## **Weather Station Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q1: Do I need and SLW1 or SLW5 for EACH SmartLine Controller? Can I use an external or web-based ET source?**

A1: Each SmartLine Controller uses its own individual weather source. No other weather source is adaptable to the SmartLine/SmartLink system at this time.

**Q2: How far away from the controller can I place the SLW5 weather station?**

A2: Typical installation has a range of 1,500 feet line of site. Use the onboard communication diagnostics to verify communications.

**Q3: Can I add wire to extend the range of the SLW1?**

A3: Yes. 135 feet of additional two-conductor wire may be added to the 35 feet that comes attached to the SLW1.

**Q4: How often should I replace the battery on a SLW5?**

A4: The SLW5 is powered with a 10-year lithium battery that should not need replacement for 10 years. The SmartLine Controller can notify the user when the weather station battery needs replacement.

**Q5: What type of ET information does the weather station provide?**

A5: The SLW weather station and SmartLine controller calculates ET based on the Hargreaves-Formula for Evapo-transpiration. For additional information see:  
<http://www.todayscience.org/AS/article/as.v1i2p43.pdf>

**Q6: When does the SmartLine controller calculate ET for the next cycle?**

A6: At approximately 11:50 PM each evening.

**Q7: How does the SLW Rain/Freeze Sensor work?**

A7: The SLW Weather Sensor provides rain and freeze pause functions to prevent watering during periods of rain and freezing weather. The rain sensor will PAUSE watering after a minimum of 1/8 inch of rainfall is received (the factory setting of 1/8 inch can be changed incrementally up to 3/4 inch by sliding the rain sensor into the desired position). The SLW Weather Sensor will also PAUSE watering when the outside temperature drops to 37 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius). The Sensor LED will display RED during these rain or freeze periods. 24VAC power to the valves is reconnected when the temperature is again above 37 degrees F (1.5 degrees Celsius). However, after a rain event, the SmartLine controller will continue to pause watering after the rain sensor has disengaged, in order to prevent over-watering. This feature (SLW DELAY) can be adjusted under the ADVANCED Menu (Factory Default is 48-hours)



**Q8: Does the SLW1 have a battery?**

A8: No. The SLW1 does not operate using a battery.

**Q9: If the SmartLine controller does not get communication from the weather station, what is the protocol?**

A9: If communication between the weather station and controller is lost, the controller will run for 5 days with the last ET recorded. On day 6, the controller will revert to the basic run times as programmed in the controller. If the system is using SmartLink and the weather station communication failure alert is enabled, the user will receive an email for everyday the weather station and controller are not able to communicate.

**Q10: How do I determine if my weather station is communicating with my SmartLine?**

A10: While standing in front of controllers, press the rain switch on the top of the SLW5 for 15 seconds; with the controller Rain/Freeze Sensor button in the ON position, the ON LED will turn Orange. Also the antenna icon on the SmartLine display should be blinking. You can also watch the LED which is visible through the openings in the cover at the bottom of the SLW5. You will see 4 blinks. All blinks should be Green.

Blink 1: Battery

Blink 2: Weather station processor

Blink 3: Temperature sensor

Blink 4: RF communication to the weather station hub in the controller

If Blink 1, 2, or 3 are RED, replace SLW5 unit. If Blink 4 is Red, relocate the weather station a try again.

**Q11: The battery on my SLW5 weather station is draining pre-maturely. How do I fix this?**

A11: The batteries (2-AAA Lithium) are designed to last for 10-years. If your SLW5 unit's batteries are draining pre-maturely (within 2 years) or the controller/SmartLink is displaying a low battery alert, replace the weather station. This issue cannot be resolved without replacing the unit.

**Q12: How do I activate a SLW5 weather station?**

A12: Verify the time and date are set and the ZIP Code or Latitude is set on the SmartLine Controller before proceeding with SLW Weather Sensor activation. On the SLW Weather Sensor, press and hold down the Rain Sense test tab in the center of the rain sensor for 5 seconds.

On the SmartLine controller, verify that the antenna icon appears on the bottom line of the LED display. (Note: The icon will flash for 5 minutes at the time of a communication. The icon will be static between communication events.) The antenna indicates communication has been established.





Press the MODE button on the control panel to place the SmartLine controller in the SMART mode. A GREEN LED on the SMART position will confirm that you have communicated with the SLW Weather Sensor. If there is no SLW Weather Sensor installed or ZIP Code or Latitude or time/date setting and at least one zone with a sprinkler type set, pressing the MODE button will flash the SMART LED to RED and then return to the BASIC mode. When this occurs, you can press and hold the MODE button to see a scrolling message indicating the reason SMART mode is not available.

**Q13: Why can't I activate a SLW5 weather station?**

A13: If the SLW5 activation process outlined above does not work, verify communication with the weather station. See determining weather station communication question above.

If Blink 4 continues to blink is RED –

- Relocate the SLW5 weather station closer to the controller. Try to activate again.
- Uninstall the weather station SL-HUB, cycle the controller power and reinstall the SL-HUB. Try to activate again.