

MK-6/MK-6SOLAR

Basic Check Out For Mk-6/Mk-6Solar Control Unit

Check all of the connections and press the reset button on the back of the circuit board. If the reset button does not work on the first press you will need to press it several times to clean the contacts inside of the switch. The display should blink each time you press the reset switch.

Push the 'press to test' button. If the motor runs the battery and motor are good.

Press the 'set' button and the "12:" will blink. Press the 'set' button again and the ":" will blink. Press the 1, 2, 3, 4 buttons and the feed time # with 0:00AM will be displayed.

Go to feed time 1 and set the control unit to feed at 12:03AM. Press the 3sec, 6sec and 9sec buttons before you press the 'set' button to get back to the time of day. When the clock reaches 12:03AM the feeder will spin for 9 seconds (if that was the last 'sec' button you pressed). Your control unit works fine, press the reset button on back of circuit board and set your times.

Control Unit Does Not Spin

Press the reset button on the back of the circuit board, make sure spinner turns freely with your finger and then push the 'press to test' button. Unplug the white plug from the back of the assembly and make sure all of the pins in the connector are shiny. Also check the battery connections for a snug fit and battery posts to ensure they are not loose.

After plugging all connections back in, use a jumper wire and connect the negative battery (black wire) to negative motor (gray wire). If the motor runs; replace the circuit board. If the motor does not run you have a battery or motor problem (the battery is most likely).

Cannot Set Time Of Day or Feed Time

Press reset button on back of circuit board then press the '1', '2', '3', '4' and 'Set' buttons. If the display does not respond to any of the buttons; replace the membrane switch. The membrane switch buttons usually go out a row or column at a time (i.e. '1', '9sec' and '3' buttons will not work).

Control Unit Spins All of The Time

Press reset button on back of circuit. If the reset button does not work on the first press you will need to press it several times to clean the contacts inside of the switch. If the control unit still spins with the battery connected; replace the circuit board.

BATTERIES AND SOLAR PANELS

Battery Does Not Hold A Charge

The life span of a rechargeable battery is 3 to 5 years. If the control unit is not throwing strong at the beginning of the season and your battery is near the end of it's life cycle; replace the battery with a fresh one.

You can use a volt meter to check the solar panel. Checking at the battery wires with the battery disconnected you should get 7 to 9 volts on a sunny day. If you do not get any voltage at the battery wires disconnect the solar panel from the control unit and connect the meter to the solar panel plug. You should get 7 to 9 volts on a sunny day.

If you get a good volt reading at the solar panel plug, but not at the battery wires you can bypass the

circuit and wire the solar panel directly to the battery. Unplug the solar harness from the back of the circuit board and cut off the red plug. Strip the wires and connect them to the battery terminals. For best results use new battery wire terminals.

If you do not get a good reading at the solar panel plug check the wire for breaks or flat spots. Cut and strip the wire and take another reading with the volt meter. If all of the wire appears to be bad all is not lost. There is about 4" of wire inside of the solar panel that you can access by removing the solar panel bracket and opening the back of the solar panel. If you cannot get a good voltage reading inside of the solar panel; replace the panel.

Storage And Care of Rechargeable Batteries

Operating your control unit year round even if the barrel is empty will give you the best results for a rechargeable battery. If you do take it down for any reason try to store it some place where you can leave the solar panel plugged in and facing the southern sky. If you don't have a place for the solar panel, you will need to charge the battery about every 90 days with a plug in the wall type charger.

The rechargeable batteries are lead acid batteries. They have the same characteristics as a car battery. If you leave them on the shelf they will die. If you let the charge go to zero volts, there is a good possibility they will die. If you have a battery that has been on the shelf for an unknown period of time, charge it for 24 hours then let it stand for 24 hours. Test the battery under some kind of load (i.e. the control unit motor). Rechargeable batteries may read 6 volts or more with a volt meter, but when you apply a load like a motor the voltage will drop. If the voltage drops below 5 volts replace the battery.