

Drip Irrigation Basics

[dripworks.com](https://www.dripworks.com): Professional products, reasonable prices, extensive line of drip irrigation products, helpful, knowledgeable online consultation via chat.

<https://www.dripworks.com>

Free Irrigation Tutorials - all types of irrigation, how to design a system.

<https://www.irrigationtutorials.com>

<https://www.irrigationtutorials.com/drip-irrigation-design-guidelines-basics-of-measurements-parts-and-more/>

For for an overview of various types of drip irrigation systems

<https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/drip-irrigation/>

Drip Irrigation is more efficient:

Sprinkler (75-86% efficient) vs. drip (90+% efficient)

"... water soaks into the soil before it can evaporate or run off. The second is that the water is only applied where it is needed, (at the plant's roots) rather than sprayed everywhere."

With drip irrigation you can provide a measured amount of water - not too much or too little - that suits the plants on the drip line.

Parts of a drip irrigation system (keeping it simple)

Valve > Pressure regulator > Filter > Timer (optional, but very useful) > Tubing (Mainline and sub-mainline or drip tape)

Drip line

Emitters (larger plants like summer/winter squash, melons, cucumbers)

Drip tape (row crops - lettuce, spinach, kale, chard, etc.) (These are not soaker hoses!)

Spaghetti lines (to direct drip or spray to irregularly spaced plants, in pots and on trellises)

Fittings > connect drip tape or emitter lines to mainline or sub-mainline tubing



Notes

- Some sellers offer kits for a specific amount of garden space.
- Provides a structure for the garden than didn't seem necessary before! Which means you need to plan to accommodate this irrigation.
- The design of a drip irrigation system should be suited to the type of soil!
- Watering time depends on the type of soil.
- Drip irrigation systems are typically not suitable for use with a rain catchment system because they require greater water pressure to be effective. (7.5-10psi for drip tape, 15-25psi for tubing with emitters)