

In this case, drip is a whole new definition for water conservation in the landscape.

Drip irrigation or low flow irrigation systems are a new wave of providing measured amounts of water directly to the soil surface at the base of a plant.



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DRIP IRRIGATION

The water wise alternative to hand held watering



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A CONSUMER GUIDE TO DRIP IRRIGATION

The sound of water dripping is something a municipal water supplier does not want to hear.



In response to water shortages due to the lack of rain many water suppliers are forced to impose water use restrictions.

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www.plantsomethingma.org/drip-irrigation

“...HOW DO I PROTECT MY LANDSCAPING INVESTMENT DURING THESE TIMES?”



The dilemma for homeowners and businesses that have thousands invested in their landscape is how do I protect my landscaping investment during these times? Hand held watering was the only use DEP allowed during water use restrictions. In 2015, the use of drip irrigation systems will be considered an allowed use. “Drip irrigation is a common sense approach of watering,” stated Chris O’Brien, from the Massachusetts Nursery Landscape Association, “Instead of broadly spraying water into the air, drip irrigation allows you to target the water exactly where the root system of the plant is” continued O’Brien.

“Drip irrigation continues to evolve as new technology in plastic molding has allowed precision emitters to drip as low as one quarter gallon per hour.”

—Jim McGovern, Massachusetts Irrigation Association

Drip irrigation minimizes water loss to overhead evaporation, wind and overspray typically found in overhead irrigation. Today’s drip irrigation can provide as much as 90 percent water-use efficiency. How does a drip system work? Low pressure water flows through flexible tubing with metered emitters. This tubing can be laid above ground, right where the shrubs or flowers are, or it can be buried underground or under mulch. If the tubing is placed above ground, in-line tubing can have emitters molded into the tubing. You can then place the emitter right at the base of a plant. The soil and root systems of the plant receive a precise measured amount of water.

Drip systems can be used for annual beds, like around foundations of homes or even in container gardens or trees and green walls. The low application rate also makes it ideal for use on planted slopes and is an easy retro-fit for older systems that use fixed spray heads to irrigate plantings. “Homeowners using drip irrigation systems reduce water by applying only what is needed based on the soil type and plant species,” stated Ed Bemis of the Massachusetts Flower Growers’ Association.

