

**All Gardens
Great & Small**
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



**Trickle System
For A Garden**

A trickle (drip) watering system may work in your garden all summer long. This system of plastic tubing puts water right at the plant roots. It saves from 30 to 70% of the water used by overhead sprinklers. With erratic and lengthy dry periods, this system saves limited water supplies and puts the water where the plants can get it right away.

You do not need to be a plumber to construct a trickle watering system. Equipment is generally found at garden supply stores.

Names of dealers may be found in the yellow pages under "Sprinklers — Garden and Lawn."

Water pressure in most homes ranges from 20 to 60 pounds per square inch. A garden trickle system operates at lower pressure — 2 to 12 pounds per square inch. The pressure is reduced by using a pressure regulator (reducer) or by running water through successive tubes of smaller diameter. Water runs from the source to the garden generally in 1/2 inch diameter garden hose. Water is filtered through a screen (80 to 100 mesh) to keep sand and suspended particles from

clogging the tiny holes in the trickle tube.

A PVC supply pipe is attached to the hose from your home with a hose adapter, and laid next to the garden. Run the supply pipe the length of the garden. Holes are punched or drilled into the supply pipe and trickle tubes are attached to run down the garden rows. These trickle tubes are left on the soil surface or are buried a few inches below the surface. Trickle tubes have small holes which direct water to individual plants. Seal the ends of the trickle tubes with a knot.

For more information on Trickle Irrigation for home gardens, call the Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

**More Water
Saving Tips**

During a drought obey local water restrictions, fix leaks in watering and irrigation systems, and place timers between the faucet and the hose to avoid excess watering. Don't keep your landscape constantly wet. Use soaker hoses especially in landscape beds and water in the early morning or early evening. During

the fall months, plant shade trees to increase cooling in the landscape and replace lawn with more groundcovers to reduce maintenance.

Use mulches to reduce watering needs in the garden. Control weeds in the garden and use less fertilizer and more water when planting fall crops.

Try to water evenly and deeply — to about 4 inches in depth. Water less often but for longer periods for time. Mow your lawn at a height of 2-3 inches.

Design any new landscape areas with drought tolerant trees, grasses and ground covers. Add more organic matter to the soil at planting.

Use shade to an advantage in the garden by harvesting vegetables at younger stages of development.

Keep water in a barrel with a lid

or spare trash can, use bath water, rinse water or 'grey' water from your home. Route rain gutters and downspouts to collect water.

Common drought-tolerant plants include Pimpernel, Geranium, Marigold, Petunia, Dusty Miller, Verbena, Indigo, Daylily, Poppy. Common trees and shrubs that suffer less in dry soils include Box Elder, Black Locust, Sassafras, Flowering Quince, Gray Dogwood, Witch Hazel, Juniper, Bayberry.

Apply mulch 3 to 4 inches deep. Mulch controls weeds and helps your plants and soil retain water. Help your soil absorb water by mixing peat, compost, or other organic materials within the top 10 inches of soil.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

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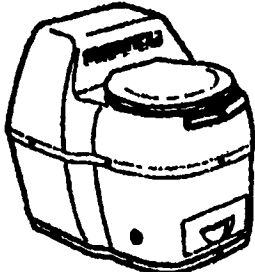
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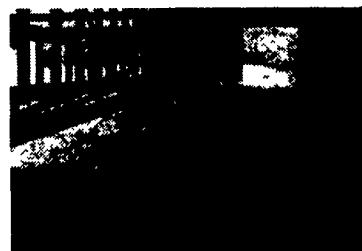
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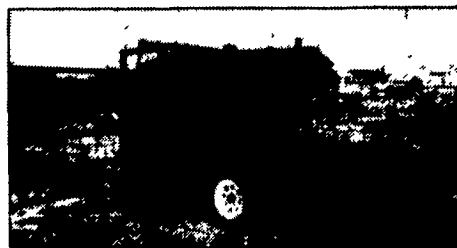
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