

Dripper Systems Fact Sheet

WHAT IS A DRIPPER SYSTEM?

A dripper system drips water on, or near to the root zone of plants. The system must use a fixed rate of flow which does not exceed nine litres per hour for every linear metre of watering system. You can contact your local irrigation specialist, hardware store or garden nursery about retrofitting your current watering system to a dripper system.

WHAT AREAS OF MY GARDEN CAN I WATER WITH A DRIPPER SYSTEM?

Most areas including: ornamental gardens; plants on slopes and flat ground; and vegetable gardens. Please note that grass cannot be watered.

WHY IS IT MORE EFFECTIVE TO USE A DRIPPER SYSTEM RATHER THAN A SPRAY SPRINKLER SYSTEM?

A dripper system drips water directly on the root of plants. It minimises water loss that may result from windy conditions (ie water loss through wind drift), evaporation and run-off. Dripper systems also reduce the risk of plant fungal and insect problems as leaves are not watered.

IS IT BEST TO POSITION A DRIPPER SYSTEM ON TOP OF OR UNDER SOIL?

Dripper systems can be positioned either above or below the soil or in a layer of mulch. Placing dripper systems in such environments ensures that the maximum amount of water can be absorbed by your plants.

CAN I CONVERT MY CURRENT WATERING SYSTEM TO A DRIPPER SYSTEM?

Yes. Existing sprinkler heads can be removed and replaced with drip emitters. Existing holes can be plugged. For further information contact your local irrigation specialist, hardware store or garden nursery.

HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT MY SYSTEM IS ONLY USING 9 LITRES OF WATER PER HOUR?

You can purchase a flow control device from all good gardening centres and hardware stores that will help you do this, or contact your local irrigation specialist.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DRIPPER SYSTEM AND A SOAKER HOSE?

A dripper system drips water onto specific areas. A soaker hose sprays water onto a larger surface area. Watering systems that spray water (such as a soaker hose) cannot be used.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE A DRIPPER SYSTEM?

By contacting your local irrigation specialist which you can find by visiting www.irrigation.org.au or by accessing your yellow pages (under irrigation). You can also visit your local garden centre.