

## **From a Gardening Perspective**

### **Drip Irrigation DIY**

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This is the best time to start thinking about your landscape's water needs for the summer and beyond. Water conservation is key and the best method to use is drip irrigation. It is easy to plan and install yourself with just a few minutes of studying your plants and the water source. The local big box and hardware stores offer an array of supplies. You can also get great equipment from online sources. Here are some things to consider:

1. Drip systems operate on low water pressure, usually 25 psi Use a pressure reducer at the source. You may also need a backflow preventor.
2. Always use 1 or 2 filters to prevent clogging emitters.
3. You will need a water source close to the installation point of the drip line (a faucet ).
4. Know the water needs of each plant and don't put too much or too little water on it. Emitters come with many different output limits.
5. The half inch polytubing used to carry the water is sometimes stiff, so put it out in the sun to warm it up and then straighten it out.
6. Be sure to make square cuts on the tubing.
7. Be sure to put emitters at least 12 inches apart.
8. When you finish putting the emitters on the tubing, flush the line before you close up the end.

Here is the list we give out for basic needs when starting out:

Anti-siphon (backflow) device, threaded  
Pressure regulator, threaded, 25 or 30 PSI  
2 filters, one in the end of the garden hose and a ¾ inch "in-line T" type  
Swivel adapter for ½ inch polytubing  
Optional battery operated timer, or a spring loaded timer  
½ inch polytubing  
¼ inch polytubing  
Emitters  
Figure 8 end closer  
Ground staples to hold down tubing  
Barbs and "T"s that you need for connecting to ¼ inch line  
Microsprinklers if you will need them. They come with different spray patterns.  
Hole punch (buy the one made for this, homemade ones just don't work)  
Goof plugs ( we all make mistakes and they can be fixed)

The Palo Pinto Master Gardeners and Texas AgriLife Extension will be offering a seminar on Birds, Bees, and Butterflies, How to Make Your Yard a Habitat for All, on August 25, 2018 at the Extension Office in Palo Pinto from 8:30 to 12:00. A \$10 fee will be collected.