

Planning a Drip System for Your Container Plants

Although a kit will most likely serve your needs, you can also customize your system by following these steps.

COUNT THE CONTAINERS. First, count the number of pots, window boxes, and hanging baskets, measuring the total distance the tubing must run to reach them all in series. Having this information in mind will give you an idea of how much tubing to buy.

SMALL WATERING LAYOUT

_____ ft.  **1/4 in. Tubing** for fewer than 10 containers and less than 30 ft watering distance.

LARGE WATERING LAYOUT

(up to 20 containers, >30 ft watering run)
Use 1/2 in. tubing in combination with 1/4 in. tubing.

_____ ft.  **1/2 in. Tubing**
(main water run)

_____ ft.  **1/4 in. Tubing**
(to containers)

FITTINGS

_____ Qty  **Barbed Tee**
(one per small pot, 2 per large pot)

_____ Qty  **Barbed Coupling**
(2-3 for 1/4 in. tubing runs, 1 per pot if 1/2 in. tubing is used.)

_____ Qty  **End Plug**
(1, if 1/4 in. tubing is used)

_____ Qty  **Tubing Stakes**
(1 for each Dripper)

Optional

_____ Qty  **1/2 in. End Closure**
(1, if 1/2 in. tubing is used)

_____ Qty  **Tubing Hold-Down Stakes**

_____ Qty  **1/4 in. Tubing Clips**
(for attaching tubing to deck or building)

COMMON WATERING DEVICES

Drippers & Stakes

_____ Qty  **0.5 GPH Spot Watering Dripper**
(small pot)

_____ Qty  **1, 2 or 5 GPH Drippers**
(large pots)

_____ Qty  **Tubing Stakes**
(1 for each Dripper)

Staked Bubblers

_____ Qty  **0-13 GPH Bubbler**
adjustable (large pots)

1/4 in. Emitter Tubing

_____ Qty  **0.8 GPH Emitter Tubing**
every 6 inches (ideal for long window boxes)

Lots of Pots?

Because a drip system's water pressure is regulated at the faucet and 1/4 in. tubing has low watering capacity, you should plan for less than 30 GPH total flow with all devices combined. If your watering layout requires greater flow than that, the emission devices won't all water as rated and many of the pots will be dry and underwatered. You'll get much better results using 1/2 in. tubing for the main supply line or planning a second tubing run from another faucet to cover a share of the containers.

By following these simple steps you can plan an automatic drip irrigation system that will save you time and keep your outdoor flower pots watered perfectly all season.