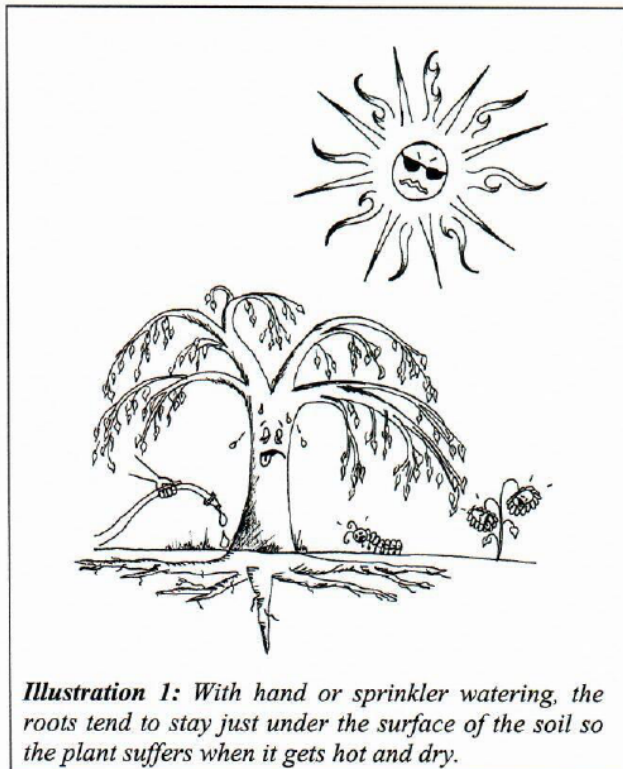


# Drip Irrigation: Why and How

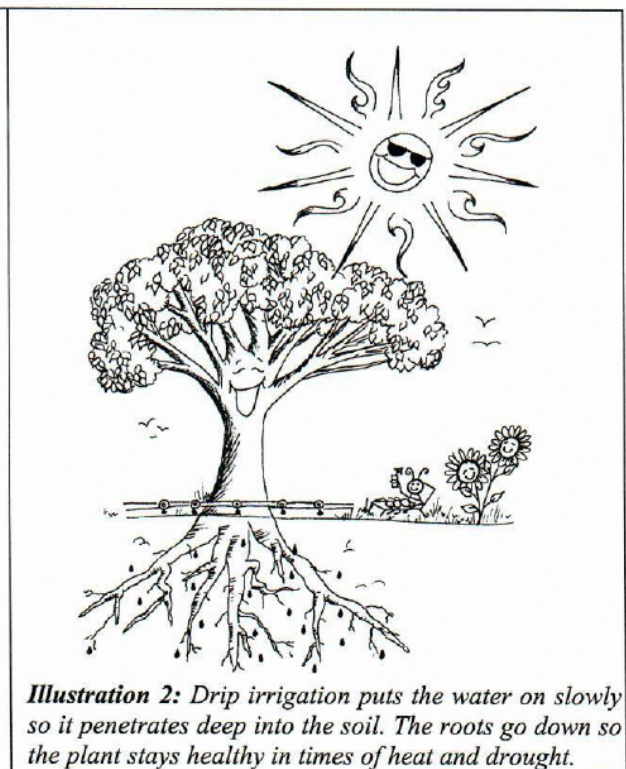
**1 Saves you money!!!** A drip system is less expensive to install than an underground system as the parts cost less and are very simple to use. Professional installation is not necessary as it is so easy to do. Also, you use up to 70% less water because the water goes directly to the roots instead of flooding or evaporating. Proper use of a drip system can save money on your water bill.

**2 Saves you time!!!** Once your system is installed, all you have to do is turn on the faucet. (The system can also be hooked up to a timer.) You don't have to spend hours hand watering any more. Also by putting the water directly over the roots, you prevent excess weed growth, so you spend less time weeding, more time enjoying your yard.

**3 Saves your plants!!!** By putting the water directly on the roots with a sloooooow penetrating drip, your roots will go deep into the ground making your plants more drought tolerant. With hand watering or sprinkling, the roots stay right under the surface of the soil, so when it gets hot and dry, uh-oh! (*See illustration 1*) When the roots penetrate deep into the soil, they will stay much cooler and draw moisture from below. So they will require less water, less often as they become established. In a drought situation when you are not allowed to do any yard watering, your plants will be better equipped to withstand the dry spell. (*See illustration 2*)



*Illustration 1: With hand or sprinkler watering, the roots tend to stay just under the surface of the soil so the plant suffers when it gets hot and dry.*



*Illustration 2: Drip irrigation puts the water on slowly so it penetrates deep into the soil. The roots go down so the plant stays healthy in times of heat and drought.*

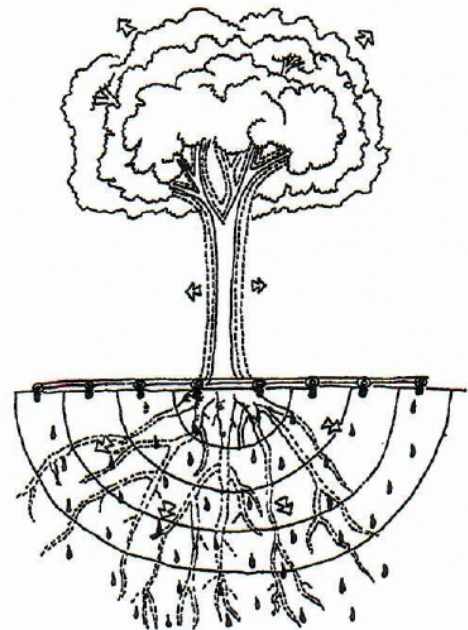
**4 Your plants will be healthier and happier!!!** By the action of the slow, regular drip of water, the roots will stay moist but not saturated. They will then have a proper balance of oxygen and water. You will avoid the stress of having the shocking “drench and dry-out” cycle.





**The easiest way to start is with a kit.** When you go to purchase one, tell the salesperson helping you if you are using it on flowers, vegetables, containers, trees, or shrubs. They will help you select the best kit to get started. After you have installed the kit, you will be an expert! It is so simple! The only tools required will probably be pruners to cut the lines.

**The transition** from using a conventional sprinkler system to using a drip system is difficult for most people because the concept is so different. Most are used to putting a lot of water on a plant in a short period of time. The drip system does just the opposite. It puts water on sloooooowly for a loooooong time. For example: with newly planted trees or shrubs, you will probably want to run your drip system for approximately 2 hours (this may vary with soil types) every 3-4 days. As your plants grow and become established the length of time will increase and the frequency will decrease for the maximum results. With trees you will eventually be watering 10-12 hours at a time but only every 14-21 days. When you water like this over time, the water and oxygen go deeper and deeper into the soil and the roots will follow. (See illustration 3)



*Illustration 3: Over time as the water and oxygen move deeper into soil, the plant's roots will follow.*



**Regarding Brands:** After studying and comparing the various brands on the market we decided to provide Raindrip for our customers. We found it to be a very high quality product at an affordable price. It is not the cheapest, nor the most expensive, but many of its features make it one of the best. For details pick up a free copy of **"THE RAINDRIP GUIDE: DRIP WATERING MADE EASY"**.

