

## **Low – Volume Irrigation Solutions**

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Low-Volume irrigation is a great way to water your plants efficiently while saving water. With a little planning the benefits to your plants, the environment, and your water bill can be substantial.

### **Drip Irrigation**

Drip irrigation systems consist of a network of tubing that deliver water to the root area of individual plants. Because the water is applied to a very specific target area, water isn't wasted by spraying the ground between plants – or on the plant itself. Also, little water is lost to evaporation or run-off. Drip tubing is especially good for hanging plants; however, in densely planted areas, the tubing can be both a visual blight and a physical nuisance when it comes to weeding or raking.

### **Micro-Spray**

In densely planted areas that are too small for conventional spray heads, a good solution is micro-spray – small nozzles mounted on plastic stakes. Like drip irrigation, micro-sprays are low-flow and low-pressure, and put out a small radius of two to six feet.

### **Soaker Hose**

Another way to efficiently water dense planting – such as flower beds and ground covers – is to use soaker hose products. They deliver water right to the roots.

When using low-flow, low-volume systems, there are a few things to keep in mind.

**First**, low-volume products operate at lower pressures than conventional sprinklers, so it may be necessary to install a pressure reducer in your sprinkler system.

**Second**, low-flow products can easily clog, because the water does not flow through them with enough force for them to self-clean effectively. Therefore, low-volume systems are equipped with a fine mesh filter that periodically needs to be cleaned or replaced.

To address all these at once, there are products available that consist of an electric solenoid valve with a filter and pressure reducer in one package – which simplifies your installation.

Low volume irrigation is a great way to keep your yard and garden happy, manage your outdoor water use and keep water in the river.