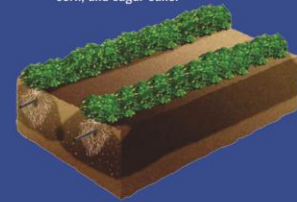


Drip Tape

Drip tape is commonly used on a variety of row crops



Agronomic crops that use subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) include cotton, corn, and sugar cane.



Why use drip tape?

Drip tape slowly, uniformly, and efficiently delivers water and nutrients directly to the root zone. This method maximizes plant growth and production by limiting plant stress, pest problems, weed growth, and erosion. It also conserves energy, water, plant nutrients, and pesticides.

What to look for:



1 Spacing

The most popular emitter spacing choice is 12 inches, but drip tape also comes in 4", 6", 8", 16", 18", and 24". The spacing you choose depends on factors such as run length, discharge/flow rate, water supply flow rate, field slope, soil type and permeability, plant rooting and growth factors, etc.



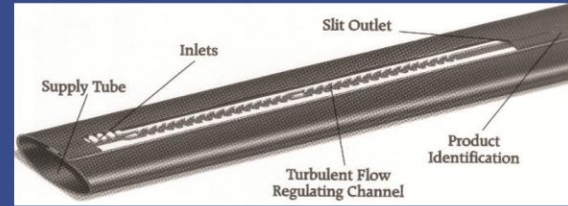
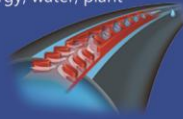
2 Flow rate per emitter

Emitter flow/discharge rate is selected based on soil conditions, crop/field requirements, and flow rate of water source. The optimal operating pressure is between 8-10 PSI.



3 Wall (Mil) Thickness

Drip tape is available in multiple thicknesses: 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, & 15 mil. A thicker mil tape is typically used for harsh field conditions and for multi-season use, while a thin mil tape is used on clean fields and short term crops. Other factors include insect presence, soil type, and traffic in the field.



Other things to remember:

- Run Length:** A low flow drip tape typically reaches farther than medium and high flow drip tapes.
- Zone Size:** More area can be watered with low flow than with high flow; fewer/larger zones usually reduce cost. Determined by pumping rate of the source and by discharge rate of the tape.
- Pressure:** With non-pressure-compensating tape, the pressure throughout the system must be uniform.

You need to know this in Gallons Per Minute.

Drip tape is a flat hose/tube with built-in, internal emitters/outlets. It is used to slowly deliver water and nutrients directly to the root zone, maximizing plant growth and production by limiting plant stress, pest problems, weed growth, and erosion, while conserving energy, water, plant nutrients, and pesticides. Drip tape is widely used on crops like strawberries, peppers, tomatoes, onions and watermelons. It is used as permanent laterals in subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) on cotton, corn, sugarcane, and other agronomic crops.

Drip Tape Options:

- Outlet spacing: 12" is most common, but often some other spacing is best. Factors involved include run/lateral length, discharge flow rate (gpm/100'), water supply flow rate (gpm), soil type (particularly its permeability), and plant rooting and growth factors.
- Flow/discharge rate: Typically expressed as gph/outlet or gpm/100', and at 10 psi (since most drip tape is not fully pressure compensating). Chosen to match the run/lateral length, the soil type/conditions, the size (gpm) of the water supply, and the zone size.
- Wall thickness: Typically noted in mil thickness (1000 mils = 1 inch), and chosen based on soil roughness, insect pressure, and type of system (permanent or seasonal).
- Diameter: 5/8" (16 mm) is the most common. Larger diameters cost more per foot but may be needed for longer runs.

IRRIGATION-MART

we SAVVY irrigation

800-SAY-RAIN | www.irrigation-mart.com

200 South Service Road East | Ruston, LA 71270-3442 | P: 318-255-1832 | F: 318-255-7572 | info@irrigation-mart.com

13799 Airline Highway | Baton Rouge, LA 70817-5924 | P: 225-755-3447 | F: 225-755-1240