Drip tape installation for vegetable gardens

Drip tape can be installed easily either above or below ground. It is designed for use in vegetable gardens, narrow rows of vegetation, and for row crops. Most often, a vegetable garden or vegetable crops are planted in parallel rows. This makes the layout of a drip tape very easy.

- **Placement of drip tape for germination:**
  To successfully use drip tape for seed germination, the soil type, the drip tape outlet spacing, and the depth and spacing between the drip tape laterals should be determined first. The drip tape must be close enough to the surface and the drip outlets must be in close enough spacing to germinate the seeds. For example, drip tape 4 to 5 inches deep was successfully used to germinate onion seeds in silt loam soil, while drip tape with 12 inch spacing failed to uniformly germinate the same crop.
- **Important:**
  When using a drip tape system, the right amount of water must be applied. If more water is applied than the plants need, most of the benefits that the drip tape system provides will be negated. The soil will be excessively wet, promoting disease, weed growth, and nitrate leaching.

Drip tape installation suggestions

- Option one for large coils: Mount the drip tape spool on a stand at the end of the row, tie the stand to the ground and pull the drip tape close to the ground.
- Option two for small coils: Hold the end of the drip tape at the start of the row and walk holding the spool, placing the drip tape to the ground.
- Step 1: Install a drip zone or control valve that includes remote control valve or battery operated controller, filter, pressure regulator, and pipe adapter to PVC or poly tubing. We highly recommend using a 15, 20, or 25 PSI pressure regulator.
- Step 2: Lay out the main lateral or supply line, PVC pipe, or poly tubing perpendicular to the rows.
- Step 3: Place the drip tape at the layout or spacing selected (see the two options suggested above).

Spacing suggestions: Lay out the drip tape at the center of the vegetable row with one line per row, or one line between every two rows if the bed is less than 2' wide.

- Step 4: Connect the drip tape to the PVC pipe or poly tubing supply line using our range of drip tape fittings, such as model A028 with PVC tee and A026 with poly tubing.

Drip tape fitting installation suggestions: The best way to install the drip fittings is to turn the sleeve counter clockwise first, then insert the drip tape over the barbed end of the fitting used and turn the sleeve clockwise to lock.

- Step 5: At each end of the drip tape line install a drip tape line end with a flush cap, model A031, and remove the cap. A flush valve can be added if preferred (see model A148).
- Step 6: Flush the line by turning the water on to flush the system of all debris, dirt, and foreign matter, and then close the end of the lateral line.
- Step 7: Pressure test the system to identify leaks in the drip tape fittings and the drip control zone.
- Step 8: Program the controller and turn the system on via the controller, then check and review the drip tape wetted paths.
- Step 9: Plant all small sized vegetable plants or seeds.