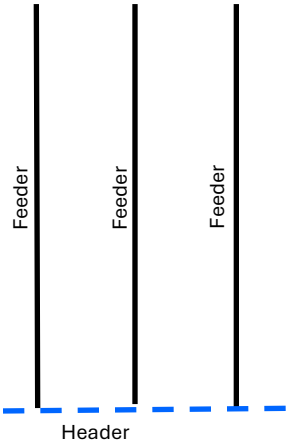
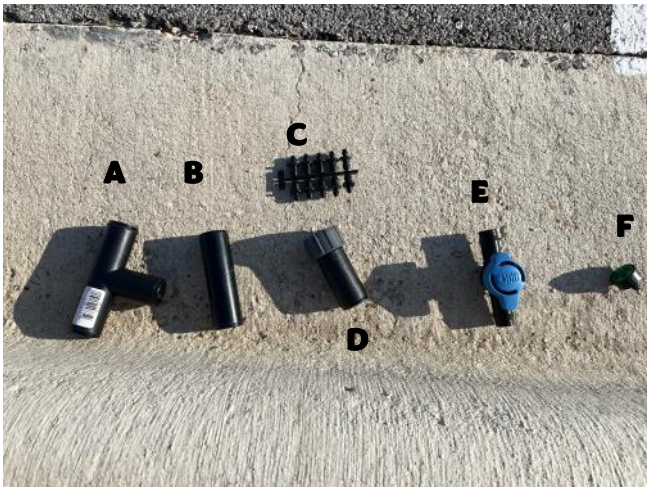
Installing a Simple Drip Irrigation System



Look at your planting area and make sure a line runs to all plants. The solid lines are the feeder lines. The dashed lines is the header line. The feeders will connect to the header and the header will connect to the faucet.

Measure your rows or other areas to determine feeder line length. Add a few inches extra for when you have to fix the hose. Also measure the potential header.



Gather your fittings. A= T. B = compression fitting. Used for putting two pierces of irrigation line together. C=goof plugs. D=hose connection, female. E=valve. F=drip emitter

Lay the hose out according to your plan. It's best to do this when sunny and warm, because the plastic hose will soften in the sunlight and you will be able to lay it straighter. It will come off curly so be prepared to unwind it as you go. For large straight areas, walk the hose out. Choose hose size depending on how long your system is.

To add in your compression, T, and valve fittings, you will need to cut the hose. Make sure both ends are even.

To install a valve with a barb end, simply push either sides of the cut hose onto the barbs.
If you are concerned about pressure, you can add hose clamps where the barb and hose join.

To install a compression fitting, like this compression T, push the cut ends of the hose into one side of the T until it can go in no further. Gently try to pull it out to test it, it should not pull out. It's like a finger trap. Do one side at a time. The T is placed so that it connects the header line to the feeder. The feeder line connects at the bottom of the T.

This is the completed main header line with the feeder and a vale coming out. This is one of the row's water lines.

Connect one side of the header line to the female faucet connection. Make sure you have the correct size for whatever garden hose you intend to use. This is a compression fitting, so the hose would be squeezed in.

At the end of all open lines, kink it and tie it off with wire. If you want it to look nicer, you can use an end cap, but that's more fittings to buy.

To install drip emitters, punch a hole in ONE side of the hose. You can use an icepick or a hole puncher from irrigation section. Push in drip emitter barbed end. Drip emitters are best pushed in when the hose is cold and firm.

But wait! What if you made a mistake. That's what a goof plug is for. Because these can be difficult, using a needle nose plyer to hold it steady can help.

- If you are on a public water system or considering using an injector, consider a backflow system.
- The more drippers on the system, the less pressure you have.
- Fruit trees may need two lines in order to meet the required water needs.
- Fruit trees and larger plants may need additional emitters as they get bigger. Emitters at the base are not as helpful at that point. Hose can be attached to these emitters to direct the water away from the base.