

Watering Your Garden



Watering and Drip Irrigation Systems in Your Garden

A Hillsboro Community Garden Program Guidance Document

Accessing the Irrigation System

Water Keys!

To access the garden irrigation system, you will need a “4-way Sillcock Key” or similar tool.

- ❖ Key available in tool shed, but some gardeners prefer to have their own
- ❖ *Always* turn the water off with the key when you leave.
- ❖ Hose bibs can leak!



Using the Irrigation System: Rules



- ❖ You must be **on-site** to water.
- ❖ **No automatic watering systems** are allowed.
- ❖ **ALWAYS disconnect** hoses from community hose bibs when done.
- ❖ Do not leave any devices attached to hose bibs.
- ❖ **Report breakages** or leaks ASAP.

Using the Irrigation System: Hoses



- ❖ Store hoses **in plots**, NOT in pathways. This can pose a danger to other gardeners.
- ❖ Never attach a hose hanger or anything else to the irrigation tower.



Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation



Overhead Watering is Wasteful!

- ❖ Most of the water you spray evaporates before it hits the ground.
- ❖ Water runs off rather than soaking into the soil so soil stays dry below surface
- ❖ Roots stay shallow because water is on the surface, plant is unhealthy and unstable
- ❖ Surface water means nutrients are not released from soil for plants to absorb
- ❖ Very time-consuming to use a hose to soak soil properly at a slow rate

Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation



Drip Irrigation is the Way to Go!

Watering Mantra: *Water deeply and infrequently!*

- ❖ Drip system delivers water slowly so it can soak in.
- ❖ Water is delivered right at the soil to **minimize evaporation.**
- ❖ Roots must reach down into soil to get moisture: **roots grow long.**
- ❖ Water is in soil, so can **dissolve nutrients** and deliver to deep roots.

Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation

Using Soaker Hoses

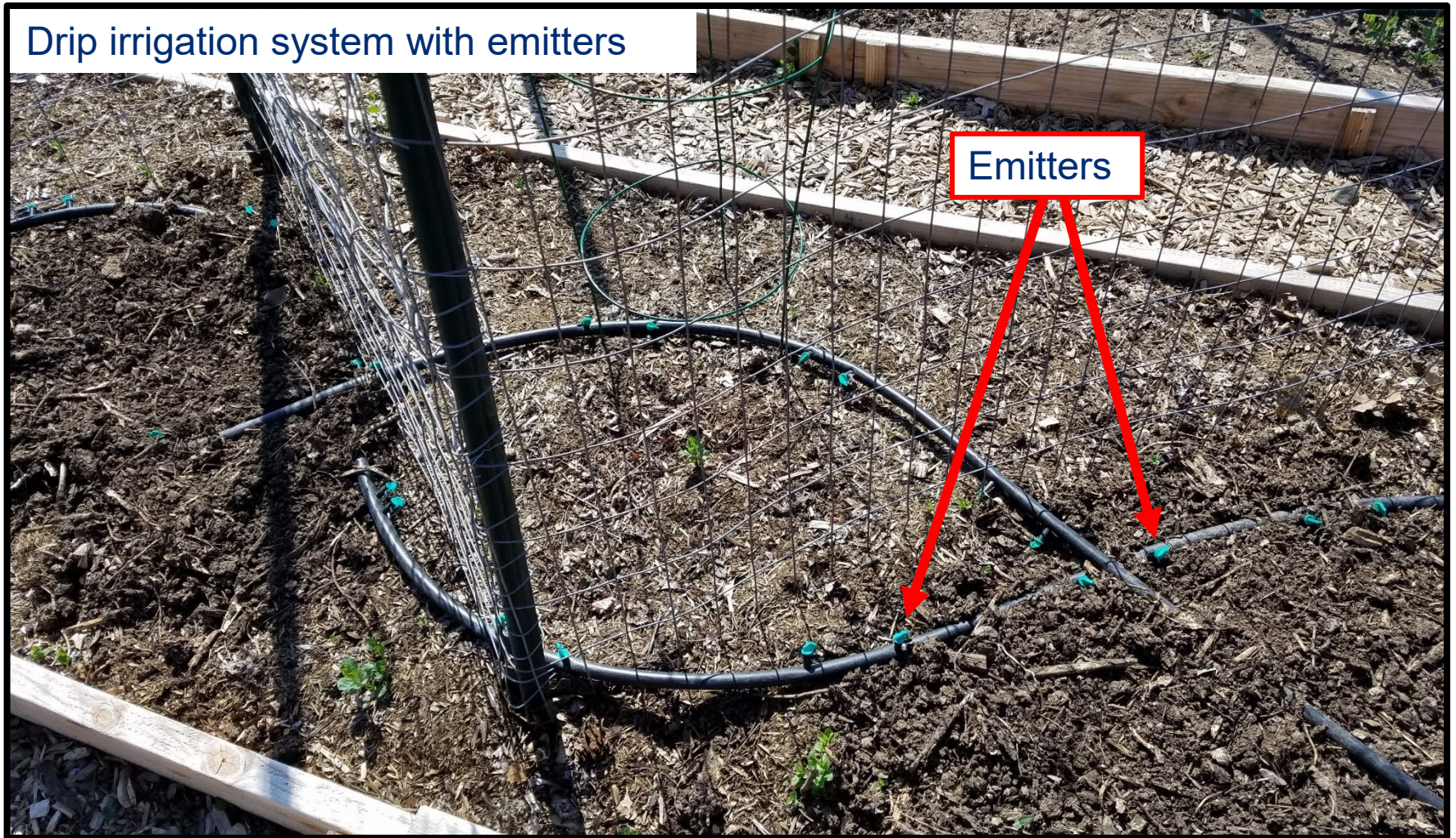


Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation



Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation system with emitters



Emitters

Watering Your Plot: Drip Irrigation



Notes on Supplies

- ❖ **Lowes:** Their brand is **Raindrip**. Hillsboro Parks uses a lot of these parts.
- ❖ Hillsboro Parks got a hose connector and pressure regulator, and used the friction attachments.
- ❖ **Home Depot:** Their brand is **Dig** (another new line is Orbit).
- ❖ Hillsboro Parks had **no trouble interchanging the parts** between the two brands.