

To Irrigate or not to Irrigate

All spring you've dug and planted and planted and dug and moved plants around your garden and it's looking just the way you envisioned it. The flowers are blooming, the plants are getting lush and it is your own little Garden of Eden.

Now Mother Nature is getting ready to give you a real wallop in the form of a *heat wave*. All of a sudden things are going downhill fast. The flowers are flopping, the leaves are drooping, and it's not looking quite so good anymore. You drag out the sprinkler (and that gets to be a real drag), hauling it around trying to get everyone rehydrated and back to their perky selves. The roses don't like the overhead watering and are shedding petals. Black spot is starting to sneak in. Powdery mildew is making an entrance. Your garden is looking terrible!!! What are you going to do?



Ta-dah ... irrigation to the rescue. Drip irrigation gives a slow regular delivery of water to plant roots. Plants are kept moist but not saturated. Emitters can be purchased that will mist your ferns, spread out the water around your shrubs, and water your vegetable garden every eight inches.

[Toro](#) and [Rainbird](#) websites have tips and tricks, installation guides, and a free design service. [Lowe's](#) and [Home Depot](#) both offer webpages with advice and information. Locally you can visit [Right Irrigation](#), 3000 NE

Minnehaha, Vancouver, WA or Rain or Shine, 13126 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR. Both stores are staffed with knowledgeable people eager to share their expertise.

Best of all, when you install drip irrigation, you are becoming waterwise, an important concept in times of drought. As you add to your garden, you can add to your drip irrigation system. Plan your initial system with care so it can expand as needed. There's always room for one more plant and it will need to be watered.