Drip irrigation exceeds 90% efficiency whereas sprinkler systems are 50 to 70% efficient.

Drip irrigation systems apply water more accurately (right at plant roots) and more slowly (gallons per hour, not the typical gallons per minute of overhead spray). This slow application is ideal for plants and prevents water from over spraying and running off on sidewalks and gutters. A well-designed drip system is durable, and you can even use sub-surface drip irrigation for lawns.

Drip irrigation is an efficient and economical way to water your garden, saving time, money, and water. This landscape practice is widely accepted by landscape and gardening experts because it offers so many benefits:

- **Healthy thriving plants** -- Plants receive water in precise measured doses, never too much and never too little, and moisture in the root zone can be maintained at a consistent level.
- **Water savings of up to 70%** -- Drip watering reduces water use by eliminating waste via wind and evaporation.
- **Eliminates overspray and runoff** -- Water is applied right where it’s needed at a slower rate, so it can be absorbed by the soil rather than running off.
- **Reduced maintenance** -- Drip reduces the potential for weed growth in areas between plants, which reduces the amount of time you have to deal with them via hand weeding or chemical treatments.
- **Ideal for sensitive plants** -- Drip watering reduces the likelihood of plant disease and helping plants thrive during what could be stressful weather conditions.

For more tips, visit the WaterSense website at [www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor)