# Do-It-Yourself Drip Irrigation System

**Outdoor watering acounts for about 40 percent of Santa Fe's total water use. Drip irrigation can use between 30 and 50 percent less water than sprinklers.**

## Know Your Soil

Irrigation systems depend upon the soil to move and store water. Soil is made up of sand, silt and clay particles. The percentage of these three particles is what determines soil type and how much water the soil can hold and how much water will be available to the

## Plant Needs

Consider the water requirements of the plants you currently have, as well as those you would like to add to your yard and zone accordingly. Download the Southwest Plant app for help choosing xeric (low water use) plants.

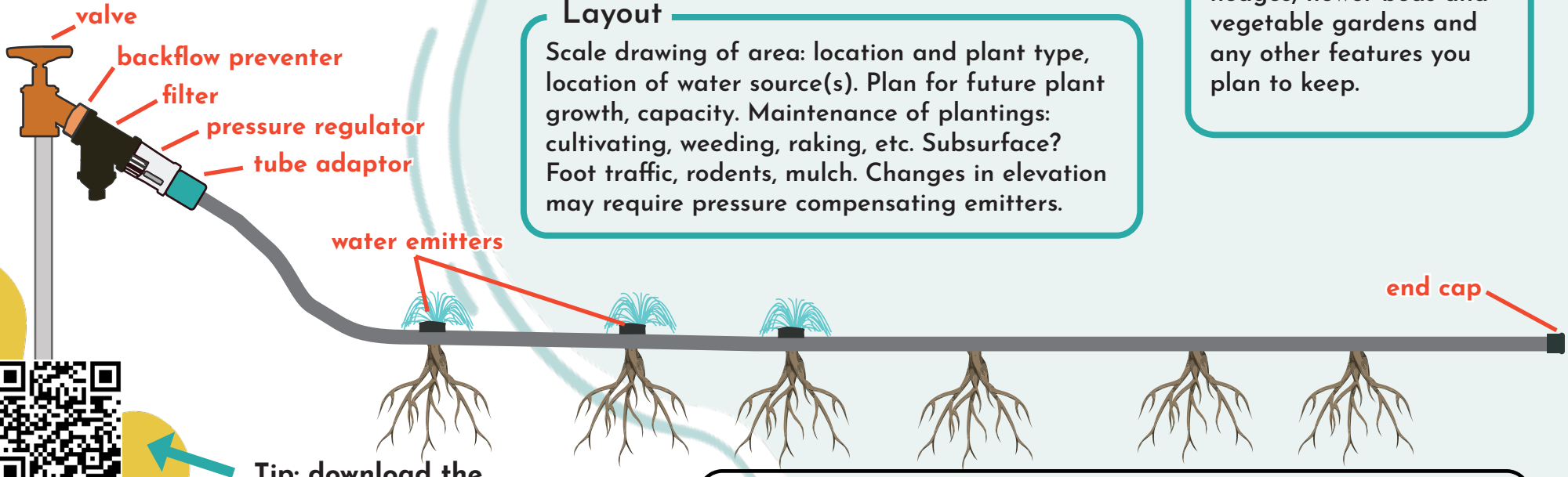
## Make a Plan

Measure the lengths of all the edges of your property and draw an outline.

Measure and draw existing fences, big trees, hedges, flower beds and vegetable gardens and any other features you plan to keep.

## Layout

Scale drawing of area: location and plant type, location of water source(s). Plan for future plant growth, capacity. Maintenance of plantings: cultivating, weeding, raking, etc. Subsurface? Foot traffic, rodents, mulch. Changes in elevation may require pressure compensating emitters.




Tip: download the EyeOnWater app to monitor water use

**Saving Water Is *Always* In Season!**

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**Step 1 - Install Timer Valves and Hardware.** The most basic timers are battery powered or solar-powered and are designed to screw onto a hose faucet. TIP: auto-valves aren't necessary but are ideal so you don't have to manually turn the faucet on and off.

**Step 2 - Install the tubing and emitters.** Drip irrigation systems are fairly simple to design, and inexpensive and easy to install compared to sprinkler systems. TIP: As a general rule of thumb, each valve can water about 1,000 square feet of vegetation, so plan the system accordingly.

**Step 3 - Custom Adjustments.** Drip irrigation systems offer many possible configurations - varying tube sizes and types, different emitter sizes, plugs and caps to make changes; and a myriad of timer features that can be set on different zones and change water delivery amounts based on season.

## BENEFITS OF DRIP IRRIGATION

1) Water goes directly to the root zone of the plants
2) There is little or no runoff or evaporation
3) Less water for weeds
4) Less leaching of nutrients
5) Drip line is flexible, and can be customized to the shape, size, number and type(s) of plants
6) Coupled with a timer a drip system can save time and results in less "forgotten" watering than using a hose
7) And plants are often healthier because they have less water related stress and fewer fungal problems like powdery mildew.

## SUPPLY LIST

Many irrigation supply stores offer kits. But if you prefer to purchase items separately, here's a shopping list of the most common elements to help get you started:

- G Tubing
- G Emitters
- G Backflow Preventer
- G Pressure Regulator
- G End Cap
- G Timer

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To watch our DIY drip irrigation video and for more waterwise gardening tips and resources scan code or visit savewatersantafe.com/waterwise-garden