

DRIP IRRIGATION

WHAT IS IT?

Drip irrigation is a slow, even, and low-pressure watering system which conserves water by reducing evaporation and applies water directly to your plants to avoid watering weeds.

DRIP IRRIGATION VS FLOOD OR SPRINKLERS

PROS

- Higher water and fertilizer efficiency.
- Less water runoff and weed growth.
- More uniform water application and therefore more uniform plant growth and yield.

CONS

- Less compatible with scheduled irrigation systems (i.e. canals & acequias).
- Without proper filtrations and lateral flushing, drip irrigation lines can become clogged.



HOW DO I START?

SETUP

Setup can be quick and easy. There are many choices for different drip irrigation systems. For more information about components and setup, read the linked New Mexico [Extension pub](#) (number RR-773).

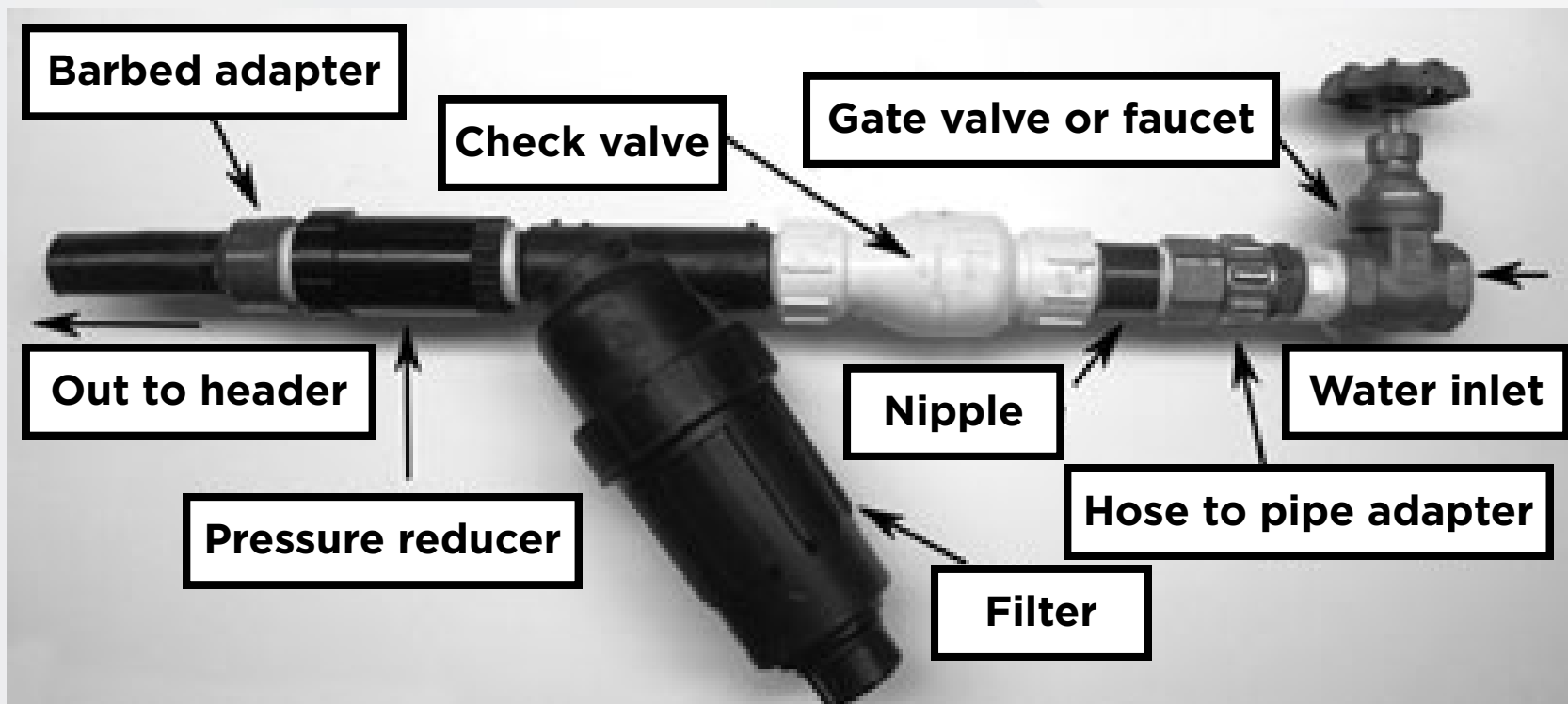
WILL THIS SAVE ME MONEY?

Higher initial costs will be recovered over time by reduced water use, time and labor commitments, and fertilizer and pesticide use.

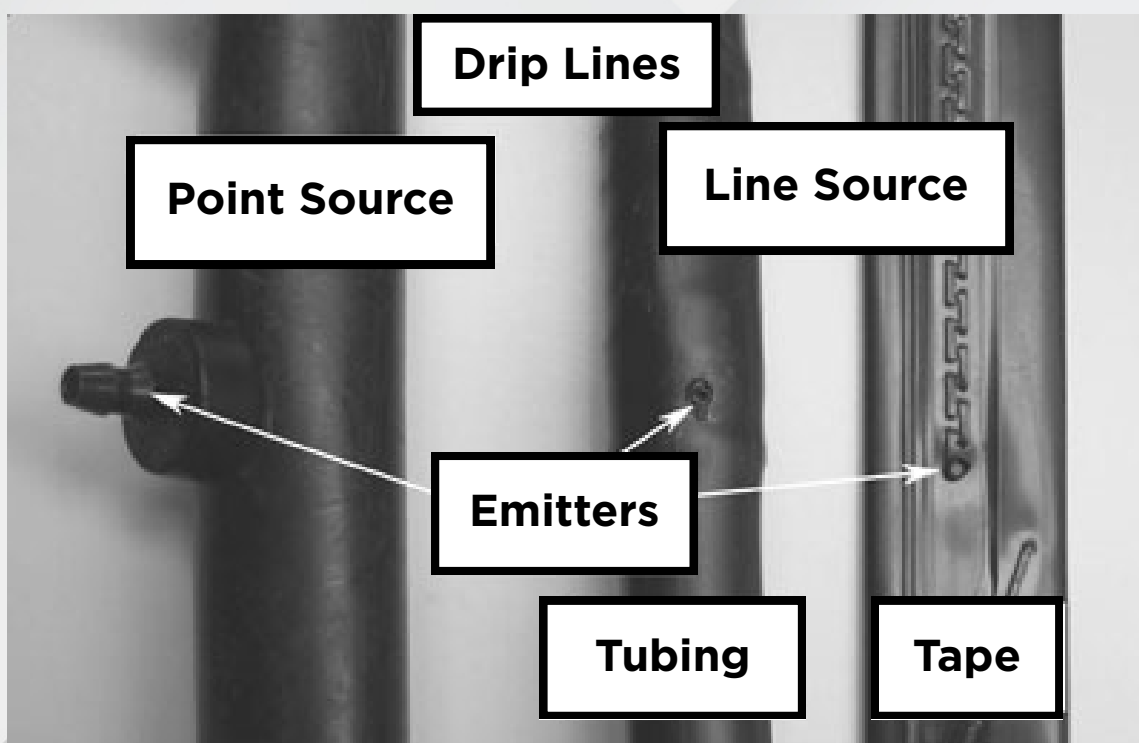
THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- All systems should have a water pressure regulator and a filter to encourage even watering and decrease chances of clogs.
- A timer can be added to the system for automated watering, saving time, and preventing overwatering or underwatering.

EXAMPLE COMPONENTS



Example of components used in the mainline manifold of a high-pressure drip system.



Examples of point source and line source emitters.

Images from NM Extension pub RR-773