



Watered down

We take a look at the
current irrigation systems –

by Rami Moorosi



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"Rather water a section of the garden for between 15 to 25 minutes, twice a week, than five minutes five times a week. Watering for longer periods allows the water to reach the roots of the plants, and therefore the plants will require watering less often. Programming the irrigation system to water only a few times a week, reduces the electricity required to operate the irrigation system – switching on and off the valves for each station."

Setting the timer

Cheral says that the best times to water your garden are early morning or late evening in summer, and mid-morning or early afternoon in winter. Mike goes on to add: "The best time to run your irrigation system would be early in the morning at around 4am to 5am. At this time of the day the temperatures and wind levels will be at their lowest thereby reducing water loss by evaporation and wind drift.

This will also allow the plants and lawn to dry off during the day, helping to reduce the build-up of fungal and bacterial diseases during the night. Additionally, municipal water pressures are normally at their best at this time of the day."

It is not advisable to try to install your own irrigation system as this is not a straight-forward task, a well-designed system is complex and mistakes can be costly. Always remember to talk experts in order to get the right system. 🏡

With thanks to Living Matter Landscape Styling and Design, Longmans Landscaping and Wetec

OCTOBER GARDEN TIPS

Fertilise potted plants with Wondersol All Purpose.

Continue spraying Eco Fruitfly Bait GF120 every two weeks to protect apples and pears from fruit flies.

Feed lawns with Wonder Lawn and Leaf or Wonder Organic Vita-Boost.

Prune tired old citrus trees, renewing mulch and feeding with Wonder 3:1:5 (26). Remember, though, if cut back severely, the plant may not fruit again for a couple of seasons.

Water hydrangeas with Wonder Pink or Blue Hydrangea Food.

Prune spring-flowering plants after flowering. Rosecare 3 will protect their new growth.

Plant Mayford Bush Squash for 400g of home-grown freshness daily. Remember to plant your veggies in full sun and plant what you enjoy eating.



It goes without saying that a successful garden needs a well thought out irrigation system. Long gone are the days when you placed a sprinkler attachment to your hose pipe for watering your landscape.

Today's irrigation technology is designed with user-friendly controllers to help home owners manage water and power effectively. The latest technology has evolved to allow controllers to be tied to sensors that can measure specific conditions such as soil temperature, humidity and soil moisture, making automated decisions on irrigation requirements based on actual conditions.



Drip irrigation

Dripper line installation is becoming more and more popular in both commercial and domestic installations.

"The most water efficient method of watering your garden is by the use of a dripper line in the garden. Water loss by wind drift and evaporation is kept to a minimum with the use of drip irrigation," explains Mike Reynolds from Longmans Landscaping. "In addition to this, sprayers sometimes spray water on unnecessary surfaces (pathways, driveways and decks). Drip irrigation allows the water to drip slowly, directly into the soil, in the location that it is intended for," adds Cheral Kennedy of Living Matter Landscape Styling and Design.

The initial installation for drip irrigation is maybe more costly than conventional irrigation systems, as the piping is more expensive. However, in the long run you would be saving money as this is a very efficient method of irrigating your garden.

Efficiency

The design of the irrigation system also plays an important role in how water-wise it is. "I always recommend that lawn areas and flowerbeds are kept separate when laying out a new irrigation system as the lawn will require more watering than flowerbeds planted with indigenous, water-wise plants.

The lawn areas of the garden can then be watered separately, more often. In addition, less frequent, longer watering will be more water efficient than frequent sprinkles. This will allow the water to penetrate deeper into the root zone where the water will be better available to plant roots," adds Mike.