

## Online Extras

### Do you know what's happening Under Your Drippers?

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***As the most commonly used method for dispensing water and nutrient solution to hydroponic grown plants, the drip irrigation procedure is relatively free of malfunctions and is also cost-effective.***

***There are ways in which you can make your drip irrigation technique more efficient. These helpful tips will help you do just that.***



- Drippers need to be monitored during use as they can clog or malfunction.
- Water and nutrient element requirements should be calculated in slight excess of what is actually needed by the plant in order to avoid the potential for insufficiencies.
- It is recommended that there is some runoff that is discarded or collected for re-circulation with each irrigation.
- With each change in stage of plant growth, adjust the elemental composition of the nutrient solution to meet changing demands.
- Formulate the elemental composition of the nutrient solution carefully.
- Place the rooting media in a watertight vessel with the nutrient solution being released at the base of the media.
- A diluted modified formulation of nutrient solution works well.
- Use a clean source of water as often as possible.
- Before installing drippers or sprayers, new tubing should be flushed with fresh water.
- Filter screens should be checked at the end of the first week of use and then every month thereafter.
- On a weekly basis, one should make sure that water is flowing at each dripper.
- Remove mineral deposits from hard water by soaking in vinegar overnight. Parts should be rinsed and dried in the morning.

