

Why

Drip irrigation is an efficient form of irrigation where water is brought close to the root zone. Because less water is lost to evaporation, up to 25% irrigation water is saved compared to conventional irrigation systems.

Cost

The cost of a roll of thin-walled drip hoses is around 150 euros (for +- 3000m). To this must also be added the price of connectors, feeders or filters. The labor hours to install the drip system also add up. In a dry year, during the irrigation season, time will just be saved again when administering the irrigation doses.

The Soil Service of Belgium calculated that from 150 mm of irrigation volume, drip irrigation turns out cheaper than reel irrigation.

What

Drip irrigation brings water through pipes and perforated tubes to the plant. The system has a lower operating pressure (about 1 bar) compared to an irrigation reel or sprinklers. In greenhouse farming and orchards, this technique is very common. Mostly rigid drip tubes are installed, allowing for long term use. Another type of drip tube are the thin disposable tubes. These are more suitable for open air vegetable cropping. Downside of the thin walled tubes is the waste: after each cropping cycle, the tubes are replaced. As a result, there are reuse initiatives regarding those tubes.

Benefits

Ecological gain: Water savings of 10-25% compared to overhead irrigation.

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