

Drip Irrigation – Raised Beds Checklist

Print-friendly steps to plan, assemble, and dial-in a water-efficient drip system for raised beds.

Parts & Tools

- ☐ Timer (battery or smart), backflow preventer, filter (150-200 mesh), pressure regulator (25-30 PSI)
- ☐ ½" poly mainline; ¼" distribution or inline dripline (6-12" emitter spacing)
- ☐ Barbed tees/elbows/couplers; end caps/figure-8s; goof plugs; shut-off valves (optional)
- ☐ Hole punch, stakes/clips, zip ties; tubing cutter or pruners
- ☐ Drill & screws for mounting; bucket for flushing; gloves & eye protection

Pre-Install

- ☐ Sketch bed dimensions; choose inline dripline for rows or individual emitters for big plants.
- ☐ Plan a tidy ½" mainline from hose bib to each bed; consider separate zones for high/low water crops.
- ☐ Count fittings and end caps; soften tubing in the sun for easier assembly.

Assemble at Hose Bib (order matters)

- ☐ Hose bib → Timer → Backflow → Filter → Regulator → ½" mainline.
- ☐ Mount on a board or post for strain relief; plumber's tape on threaded joints.
- ☐ Flush mainline before connecting garden runs.

In the Beds

- ☐ Stub up ½" mainline at a bed corner; tee or barb to ¼" lines.
- ☐ Lay inline dripline in rows 6-12" apart (stake every 12-18") or place emitters at root zones.
- ☐ Flush ends; install end caps/ figure 8s; cover with 1-2" mulch.

Test & Tune

- ☐ Pressurize and check for leaks; reseal fittings that weep.
- ☐ Verify even flow; split long runs or shorten if weak at the far end.
- ☐ Start the schedule (pages 2-4); adjust by soil moisture 4-6" down and plant vigor.

Seasonal care

- ☐ Spring: new timer batters; flush lines; inspect for critter damage.
- ☐ Summer: increase minutes/days during heat waves; maintain mulch depth.
- ☐ Fall: reduce frequency; remove annual lines if desired.
- ☐ Freeze zone: drain lines; remove timer/regulator; store indoors.

Seasonal Watering – Quick Reference (shrubs, perennials, and fruit trees prefer fewer, deeper waterings. For containers, prioritize frequency; for in-ground, prioritize duration.

Tips, Diagnostics & Notes

Use these quick rules to fine-tune any schedule. When in doubt, check soil moisture 4-6" down and adjust by minutes, not hours.

Emitter & Scheduling Tips

Inline dripline row spacing: 6-8" for greens; 8-12" for mixed beds; 12"+ for large plants. • Containers dry faster-check daily in heat. • Mid-day droop that recovers by evening is usually fine. Morning droop or crispy edges → add time; yellowing or soggy soil → reduce. • Increase duration by 10-15 minutes if top 2" are dry; decrease if soil stays soggy. Cover lines with mulch to reduce evaporation. .

LuckyCatGardens_Watering_Schedule

Plant Type	Setting	Emitter Type	Season/Weather	Frequency	Duration	Tips
Leafy greens / salad	Raised bed	Inline dripline (6-8" rows)	Cool (spring/fall)	3x/week	30-40 min	Keep soil evenly moist; avoid full dry-outs
Leafy greens / salad	Raised bed	Inline dripline (6-8" rows)	Hot/dry stretch	5-6x/week	40-55 min	Increase frequency first in heat
Leafy greens / salad	Containers	1-2 GPH emitters per pot	Cool	3-4x/week	20-30 min	Check pots often; faster drying
Leafy greens / salad	Containers	1-2 GPH emitters per pot	Hot	6-7x/week	30-45 min	Shade in extreme heat if possible
Fruiting veg (tomato/pepper/etc.)	Raised bed	Inline dripline + extra emitter at plant	Cool	2-3x/week	45-60 min	Aim for moisture 6-8" down
Fruiting veg (tomato/pepper/etc.)	Raised bed	Inline dripline + extra emitter at plant	Hot	3-5x/week	60-90 min	Deep, less frequent > shallow, frequent
Fruiting veg (tomato/pepper/etc.)	In-ground	2 GPH emitters (2 per plant)	Cool	2x/week	45-60 min	Add basins to hold water
Fruiting veg (tomato/pepper/etc.)	In-ground	2 GPH emitters (2 per plant)	Hot	3-4x/week	60-90 min	Mulch to reduce evaporation
Herbs & root crops	Raised bed	Inline dripline (8-12" rows)	Cool	2-3x/week	25-35 min	Light-to-moderate moisture is fine
Herbs & root crops	Raised bed	Inline dripline (8-12" rows)	Hot	3-5x/week	35-50 min	Watch for bolting in heat
Herbs & root crops	Containers	1 GPH emitter per pot	Cool	2-3x/week	20-25 min	Loosen compacted surface soil
Herbs & root crops	Containers	1 GPH emitter per pot	Hot	4-6x/week	25-35 min	Reduce wind exposure if possible
Perennials & flowers	Raised bed	Inline dripline (8-12" rows)	Cool	1-2x/week	30-45 min	Even moisture promotes steady blooms
Perennials & flowers	Raised bed	Inline dripline (8-12" rows)	Hot	2-4x/week	45-70 min	Top up mulch mid-season
Perennials & flowers	In-ground	Emitters 1-2 GPH per plant	Cool	1x/week	45-60 min	Place emitters at dripline, not trunk
Perennials & flowers	In-ground	Emitters 1-2 GPH per plant	Hot	2-3x/week	60-90 min	Split long runs if flow weakens
Shrubs & small fruit	In-ground	Emitters 2 GPH (2-3 per plant)	Cool	1x/week	60-90 min	Water out to canopy edge
Shrubs & small fruit	In-ground	Emitters 2 GPH (2-3 per plant)	Hot	2x/week	90-120 min	Add an extra emitter if drooping persists
Berries (blueberry/cane)	Raised bed	Inline dripline + extra emitter	Cool	2x/week	45-60 min	Acidic mulch (pine) helps blueberries
Berries (blueberry/cane)	Raised bed	Inline dripline + extra emitter	Hot	3-4x/week	60-90 min	Keep consistently moist for fruit set
Fruit trees (young)	In-ground	Basin + 2 GPH emitters (4-6)	Cool	1x/week	60-90 min	Slow, deep soak; expand basin as tree grows
Fruit trees (young)	In-ground	Basin + 2 GPH emitters (4-6)	Hot	2x/week	90-120 min	Check soil 6-8" down next morning
Fruit trees (established)	In-ground	Basin + 2 GPH emitters (6-10)	Cool	2x/month	120-180 min	Fewer, deeper cycles encourage roots
Fruit trees (established)	In-ground	Basin + 2 GPH emitters (6-10)	Hot	1x/week	120-180 min	Add minutes during heat waves