



# Watering Equipment

Water is the lifeblood of your landscape. Investing in your new landscape should include proper watering equipment, which will help to make the job of watering easier, more efficient and less frustrating. Don't wait to purchase the needed equipment or your plants may become stressed waiting for water.

**Hose:** A good solid rubber hose will be durable enough to withstand the abuse it will receive. Generally, the lighter the weight material the less sturdy the hose will be. We like the black commercial Sears Craftsman hose, but the drawback to these is their heavier weight. Get hoses in various lengths for the location in the yard where they will be used. A patio hose might only need to be 25' or 50', while in the lawn you might need a 75' or 100' hose. Lighter weight hoses are easier to handle, but will not stand up to abuse, such as driving over them with cars if left they're out in the driveway.

**Oscillating sprinkler:** The oscillating sprinkler is preferred over other sprinklers because it provides an even application of water across the entire area. This makes it ideal for all types of watering, from planting beds to lawns. Adjustments allow you to irrigate portions of an area for more targeted watering. Water is distributed over head and falls much like a gentle rain fall. Overhead watering is ideal for new lawn installations because the seed will not be scattered, which is more likely with pulsating sprinklers.

**Pulsating sprinkler:** The pulsating sprinkler is an effective way to irrigate turf, but is less desirable for planting beds and new seed lawn installations. The pulsating sprinkler shoots water out from a nozzle and pulses as it rotates in a 360° circle, or portion thereof. The spray pattern for pulsating sprinklers often supplies sufficient water near the sprinkler and further out in the watering pattern, but can leave the middle of the watering pattern light on water. The uneven watering may cause puddling, and on new lawn installations seed will wash away. The force of the water trajectory can scatter new grass seed as well. Pulsating sprinklers are okay for established lawns.

**Watering Wand:** A wand with a shower head that is 3' or 4' in length that attaches to the end of a hose will make watering individual plants much easier than a handheld spray attachment, which might be better used for hosing off the driveway or washing the car. A watering wand is helpful for hanging baskets, pots and specific bed areas that need to be hand watered. Coupled with a valve, a watering wand allows for precise watering with ease.

**Valves:** Brass valves that divert water at the spigot or allow you turn off the water to change watering attachments at the end of the hose without having to turn off the water supply will make watering more convenient and less frustrating.

**Diverter/"Y":** Plastic or brass Ys split the water so that you can run multiple attachments from the same water spigot or hose. Ys are helpful when setting up multiple hoses or sprinklers that you will leave in place for an extended period of time, giving you control over individual hoses/attachments as you see fit.

**Rain gauge:** Inexpensive plastic rain collectors have graduated increments to measure rainfall or irrigation. Rain gauges are useful when determining how much water your current irrigation system or sprinklers put out for a period of time. Use one easy-to-read rain gauge in a convenient location to monitor rain fall. You may also use pie tins or similar containers to measure the output of your irrigation system or sprinkler.

**Timer:** Watering timers allow you to turn on a water source and have it automatically shut off after a set increment of time. Timers help to ensure that you don't over water your beds or lawns by applying the proper amount of water as determined by you. Some oscillating sprinklers come with timers built in.

**Soaker Hose:** Perforated lightweight rubber hoses "sweat" water through the pores of the hose. Soaker hoses are a good way to water ornamental plants or perennials via drip irrigation. Because the water leaches from the hose at ground level, very little evaporation occurs. Evaporation is more common when watering over head. Soaker hoses give off more water on the end of the hose nearest the water source and less water on the closed or capped end of the hose, which makes water distribution somewhat uneven.

**Storage:** Hose reels and hose hangers are convenient methods of storing bulky hoses. There are nicer boxed/enclosed hose reels and open reel styles, both of which sit on the ground. Hose hangers should be securely fastened to a structure. Look for hose storage options that also have a shelf or tray that can hold Ys, nozzles, valves and other accessories.

