

Setting Drip Irrigation Line, Planting and Mulching

By Carl Burkybile, Healing Hands International Director of Agriculture Education,

cburkybile@hhi.org

1. Place two drip lines on each one meter (39 inch) wide planting bed; turning the drip holes upward.



2. Hold drip lines in place with forked sticks or wire staples.



3. Make a bucket stand for the water container. If each bed is watered with a 20 liter (five gallon) bucket, make the stand so that the bottom of the bucket is one meter (39 inches) above the top of the raised bed. If a larger water container is used to water multiple planting beds, the stand should be slightly higher.



4. Cover the top of the water container with a piece of cloth to serve as a coarse filter before filling the container with water.



5. Connect the drip lines to the water container. The technique for connecting the lines will vary depending on the type of drip line you use. Follow the directions given by the manufacturer of the drip lines.



6. Fill the container with water and as wet spots form at the drip holes, plant the plants at those spots.



Drip lines usually have drip holes every 12 inches but are also available with 6 and 24 inch spacings; it is not recommended that you poke additional holes in the drip line. If you need to space plants wider apart, holes can be sealed by heating or wrapping with electrical tape.

7. Using your hand, a stick, or a small trowel, make a hole for planting transplants. Plant the transplants at the same depth they

were growing. If the plants are tall and spindly, plant them deeper than they were growing. For example, spindly tomato plants can be inserted into the planting hole up to almost the first leaf.



Depending on the mature size you expect the plants to be, you may consider planting seeds between the two rows of plants or along the edge of the planting bed.



9. Next, mulch the raised beds with dried plant material (grass cuttings, straw, etc.).



8. After transplanting is complete, if more water is available, additional watering with a sprinkler can or by running more water through the drip lines will help reduce transplant shock and increase plant survival rate.



10. A typical 15 meter (50 foot) raised bed with 100 plants requires 20 liters (five gallons) of water morning and evening. During the dry season, this one raised bed will produce enough vegetables to feed a family of five to seven.



11. After two or three years of production, the raised beds can easily be rejuvenated by moving them ½ meter to the left or right. The foot path becomes the new compost trench and the old compost trench becomes the new foot path.



Fruits of your hard work!



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Contact Carl Burkybile, Healing Hands International Director of Agriculture
cburkybile@hhi.org