Daily Drip Irrigation for the Highest Yields

A Discussion About Daily versus Intermittent Irrigation



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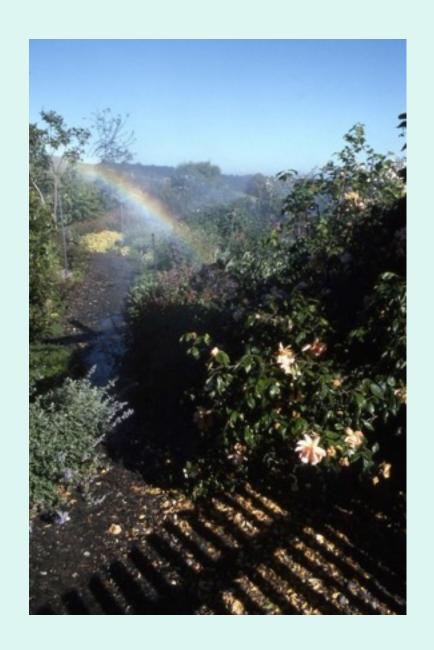
rkourik@sonic.net

- 1 Superior Growth
- 2 Efficient Distribution
- 3 ► Maximum Control
- 4 Water Conservation

Micro-Sprinklers Above the Foliage





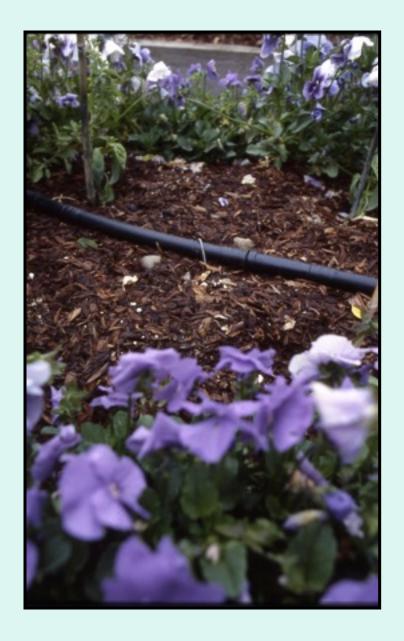


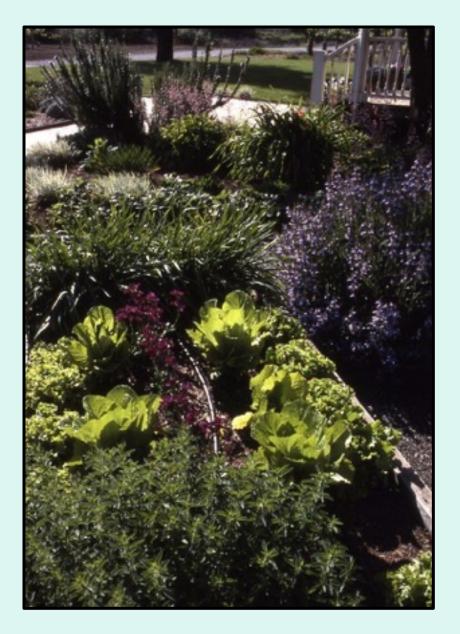
Daily Water Use (In Gallons per Day)

BASED ON VARIOUS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION RATES

Square Feet of Plant Cover	ET Rate (in inches/month)									
	1"	2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"	9"	10"
1 sq. ft.	0.0187	0.0374	0.062	0.083	0.104	0.125	0.145	0.166	0.187	0.208
4 sq. ft.	0.075	0.15	0.248	0.332	0.416	0.5	0.58	0.664	0.75	0.832
10 sq. ft.	0.187	0.374	0.62	0.83	1.04	1.25	1.45	1.66	1.87	2.08
75 sq. ft.	1.403	2.805	4.65	6.225	7.8	9.4	10.875	12.45	14.0	15.6
100 sq. ft.	1.87	3.74	6.2	8.3	10.4	12.5	14.5	16.6	18.7	20.8
200 sq. ft.	3.74	7.480	12.4	16.6	20.8	25.0	29.0	33.2	37.4	41.6
300 sq.ft.	5.61	11.22	18.6	24.9	32.2	37.5	43.5	49.8	56.1	62.4
1 acre solid cover	815	1629	2701	3615	4530	5445	6316	7231	8146	9060

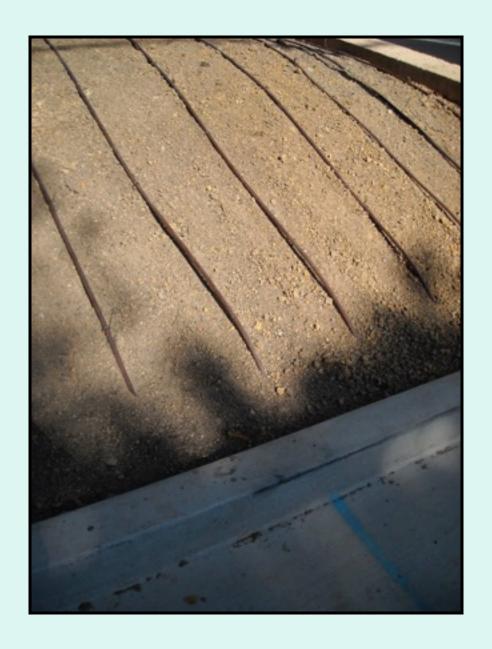


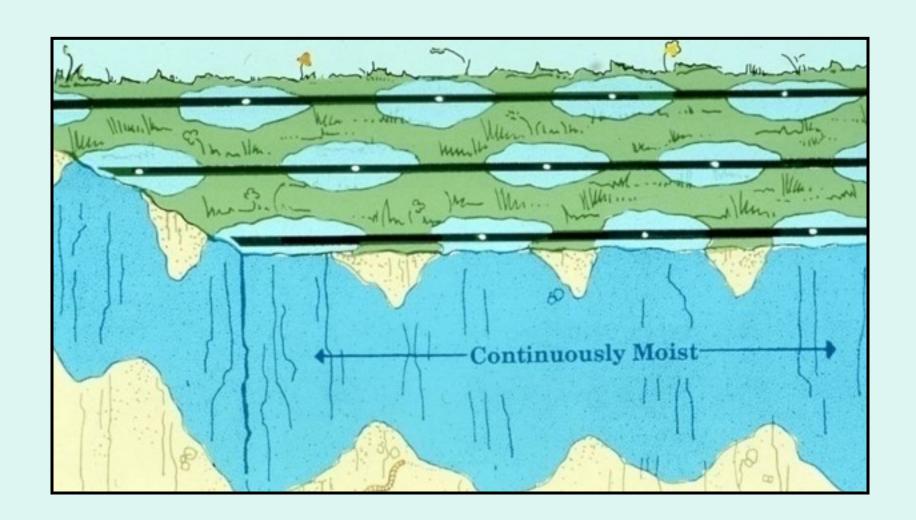


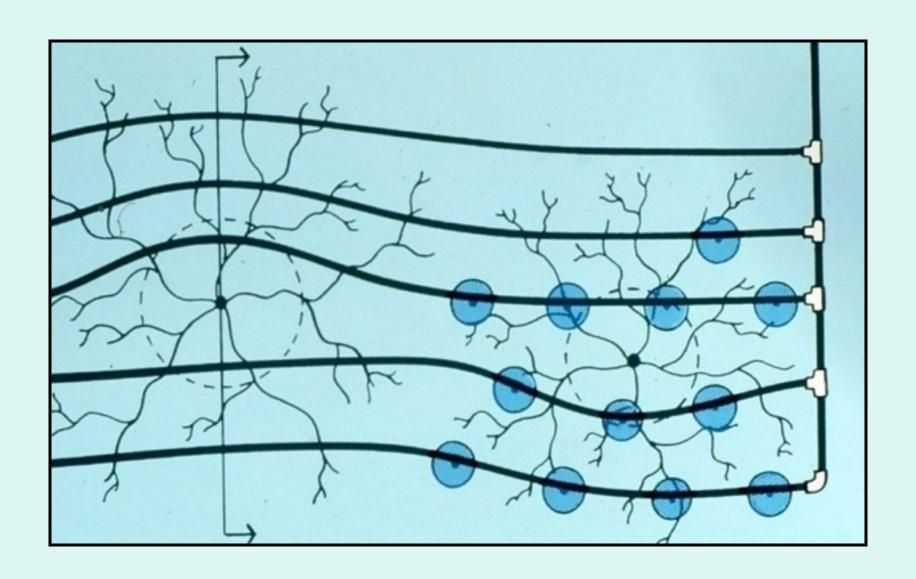


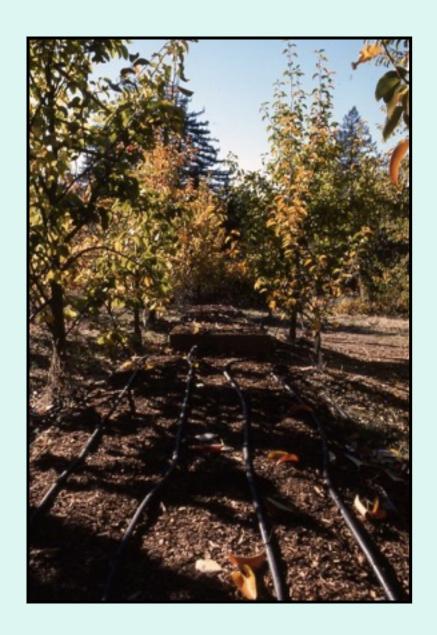


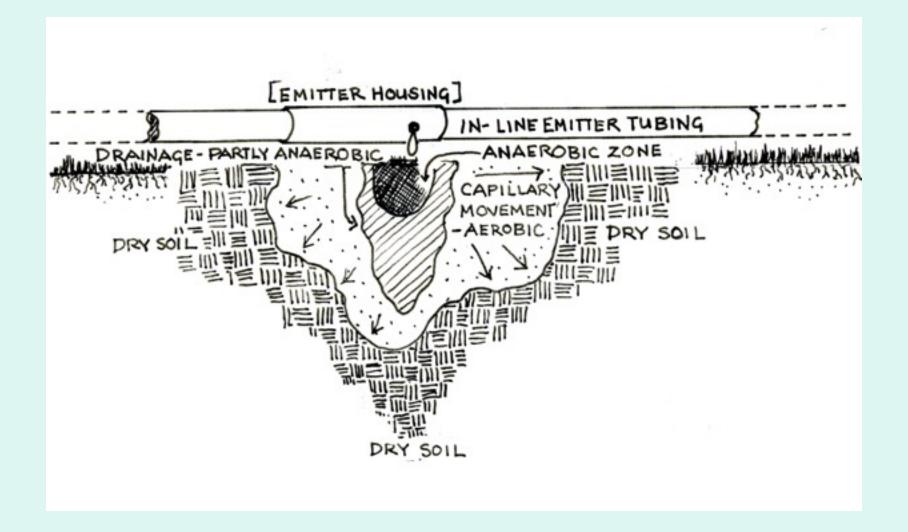














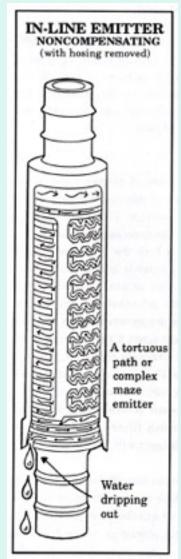
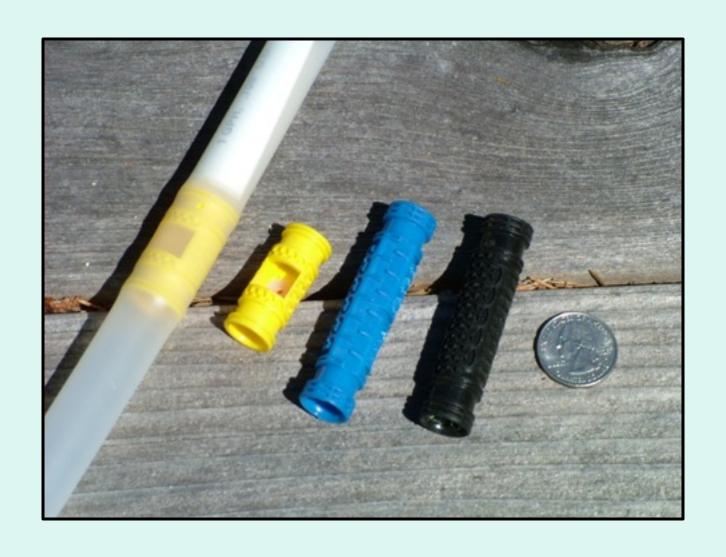


Figure 11 The in-line emitter is built inside the drip irrigation hose. This type has a complex path for the water to follow, known as a "tortuous path," which regulates the flow and helps keep the emitter unclogged. This is not pressure compensating.

Inside an In-Line Emitter.

The water moves like a small horizontal tornado. This keeps all particulates in suspension until the "dirty" water reaches the larger-than-normal orifice.

Various In-Line Emitters; 2gph, 1gph, 1/2gph







1/4-inch In-line Drip Tubing

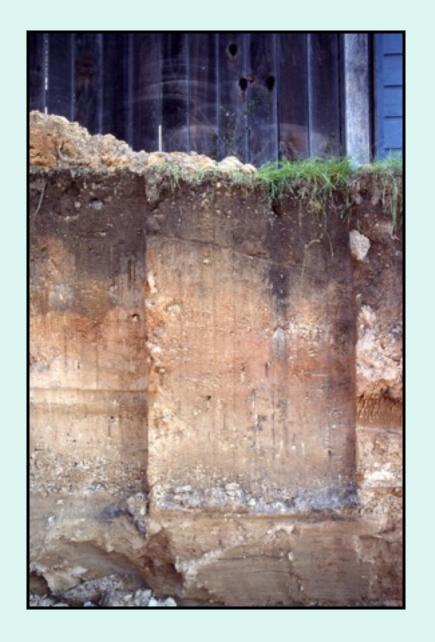




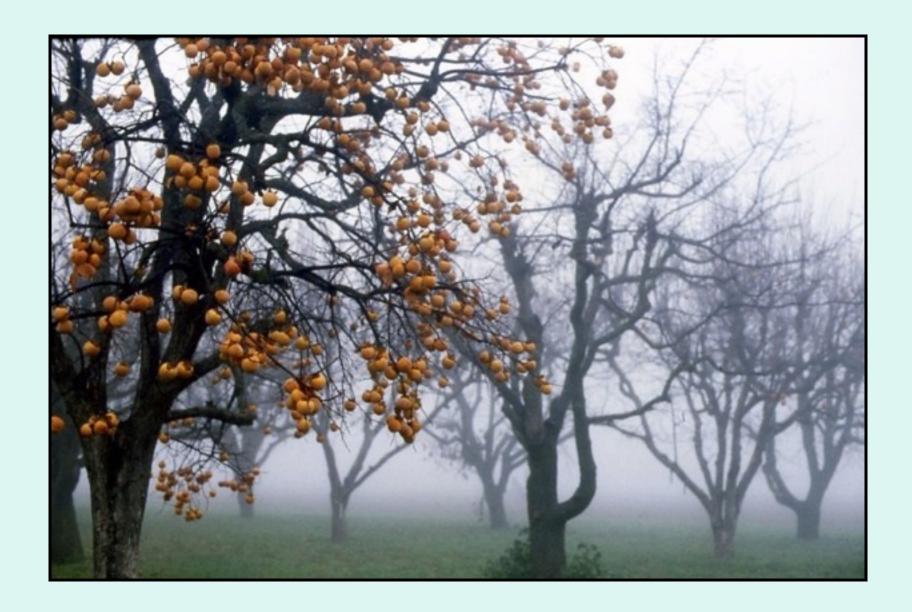


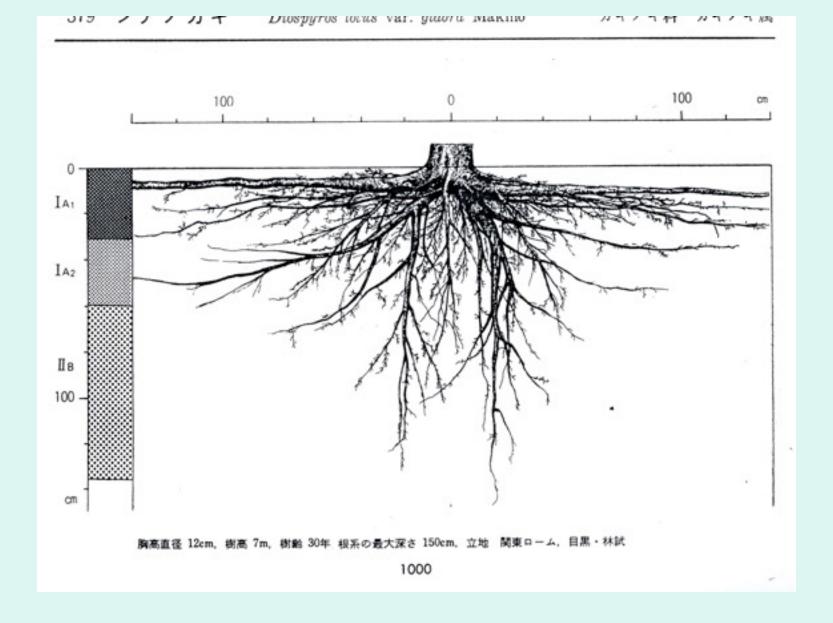
Chinese Medicinal Herb Farm



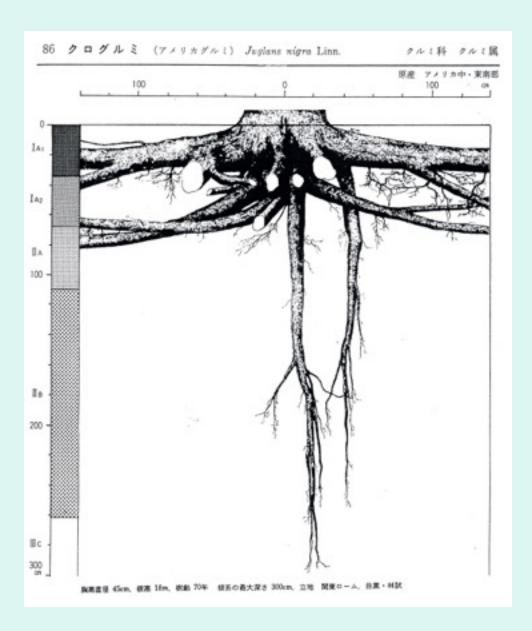


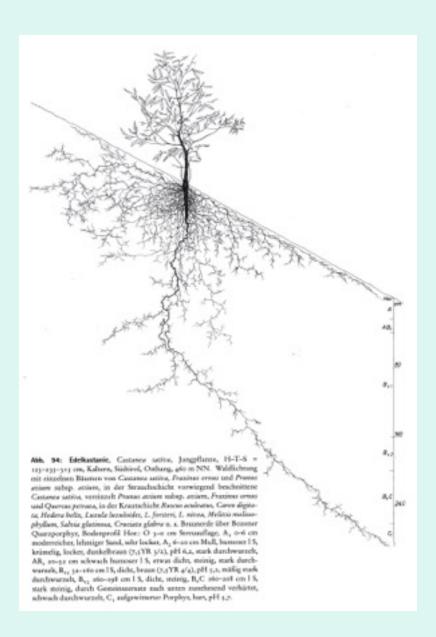
Most plants don't send many roots into clay subsoil. Main roots are only as deep as the topsoil. Even in deep topsoil, most of a tree's roots are found in the top 12-18 inches.

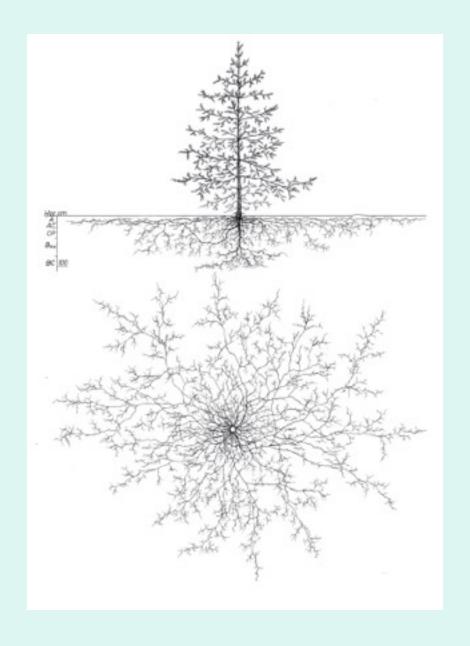




Persimmon Roots (100 cm = 39 inches)







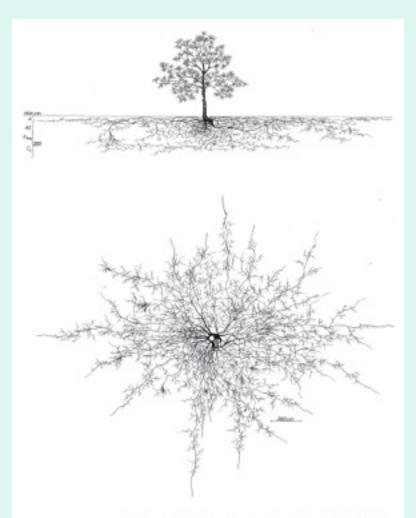


Abb. 141: Gewiltstiche Walnuft, Juglaus rugia, H-T-S = p60-260-z. p60 cm. Krastal, nordwestlich Villach, SO-Hang, 540 m NN. Naturvorjüngung unf nach vorunknunsterm Schutzlicher, schützere Baumbentend mit Wallach und vereinscht Esche, Mullperarendsina, Stockwerüpzeid unf Schwermifzeher. Bedengreifil Herz e-ge em stack baumoner, sundiger Lehm, krimetig, bester Mullburms, locker, stack durchwerzelt, AC go-sto em harmour s L, stack durchsetzt mit Kalleschutz, locker, stack durchwerzelt, Appg 100-380 cm stack baumoser, lothniger Stoft, schwach durchsetzt mit Kalleschutz, dichter gelagen (überschütztuser Obenhaden infolge von Vermurung), gat durchwerzelt, Cg. schluffiger Feinaund, schwach (softlerkig, schwach durchwerzen). Bewurzelung undurfend.

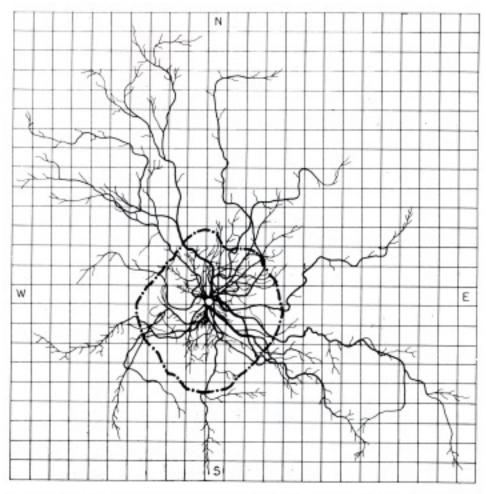


Fig. 131. The root system of a 24-year-old walnut tree raised from seed in sandy soil occupied an area of 199 m². The diameter of the root system was 3.5 times that of the branch system. The projection of the crown (drip-line) is marked by a dashed line. (The sides of the squares are 1 m)

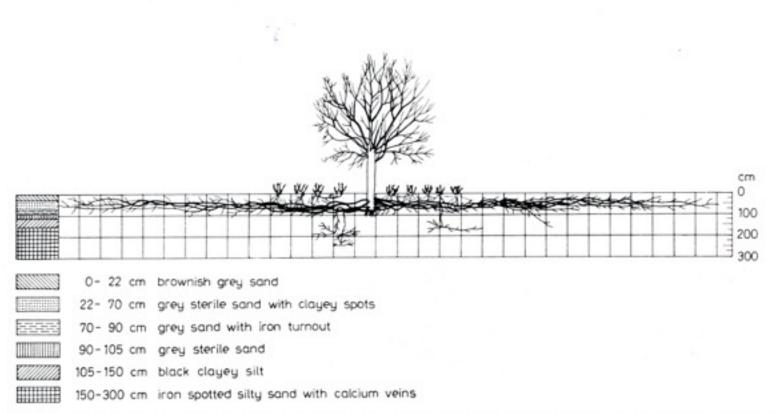


Fig. 132. The great majority (91.75 per cent) of roots of a 24-year-old walnut tree raised from seed in sandy soil was located in the 20-80 cm soil horizon. (The sides of the squares are 1 m)

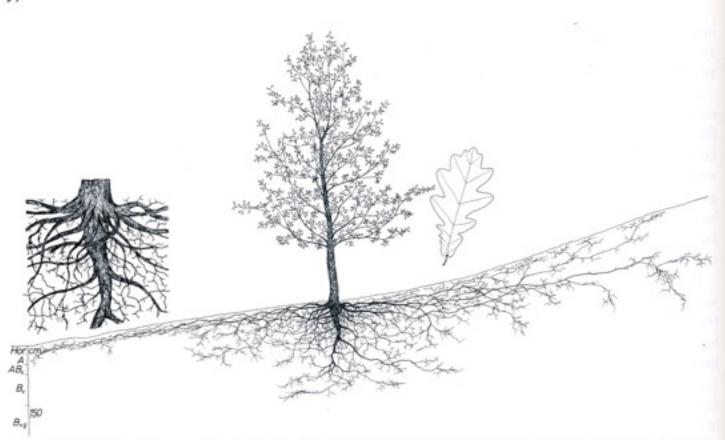


Abb. 112: Stiel-Eiche, Quercus robur, H-T-S = 565-200-1.450 cm, Keutschach, Kärnten, gegen das Moor auslaufende, leicht nach Süden geneigte Niederterrasse, 515 m NN. Hangmolinietum am Moorrand mit Traubenkirsche und vereinzelt Stiel-Eiche. Grundfeuchte Braunerde, Bodenprofil Hor.: A₁ 0-15 cm Rasenfilz, stark humoser, sandiger Lehm, krümelig, pH 5,8, stark durchwurzelt, A₂ 15-40 cm stark humoser s L, krümelig, mäßig dicht, schwach steinig, stark durchwurzelt, AB_v 40-60 cm schwach humoser s L, mäßig dicht, steinig, stark durchwurzelt, B_v 60-120 cm s L, mäßig dicht, schwach steinig, nach unten zunehmend feuchter, Durchwurzelung abnehmend, B_v g s L, mäßig dicht, rostfleckig, Durchwurzelung auslaufend, Grundwasserstand zur Zeit der Freilegung bei 130 cm Tiefe.

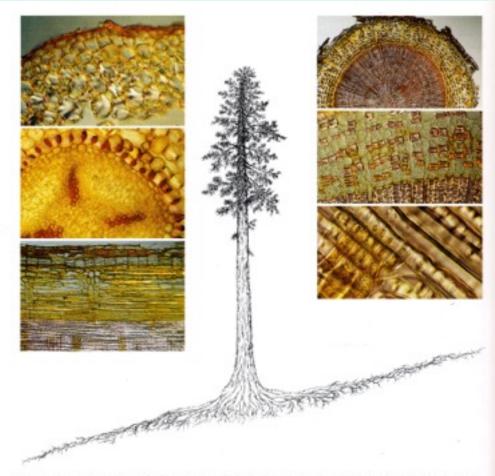


Abb. 52: Mammutbaum, Sequoiadendron giganteum, Höbbe des Baumes 58 m, Sequoia-Nationalpurk, Kalifornien, Sechöbe 2.150 m. Kiefern-Tannen-Wald mit Gruppen von Mammutbäumen. Bewurzelung aufgrund von Studien an entwurzelten Bäumen und von dortigen Beschreibungen sehematisch hinzugezeichnet. An a tom is ehe Bilder: 1-6: Mariabrunn, Wien, 27. 12. Ph/HCL Linku = 1: Prim., Ø, 162x. Rinde ARP a- bis mehrschichtig, RP ZW mit Verdickungsleisten. — 2: Prim., Ø, 162x. Rinde innerste Schicht PhiZ, En mit Suberinlamelle. ZZ 4arch. — 3: Sek., Øl, 64x. PCAG bis Sechichtig, Brit F in 7 Kreisen angeordnet. Rechts: — 4: Sek., Øl, 35x. PCAG bis Sechichtig, Bast F in bis zu 8 Kreisen angeordnet. Holt, Strablen einreibig, ZZ 4arch. — 5: Ausschnitt aus 4. 162x. Bast F rektangulär, W verholzt. — 6: Ausschnitt aus 3. 205x. Holt, Tracheiden mit Hofrüpfeln und zulaufendem Ende, im Kreuzungsfeld Tüpfel unbehöft.

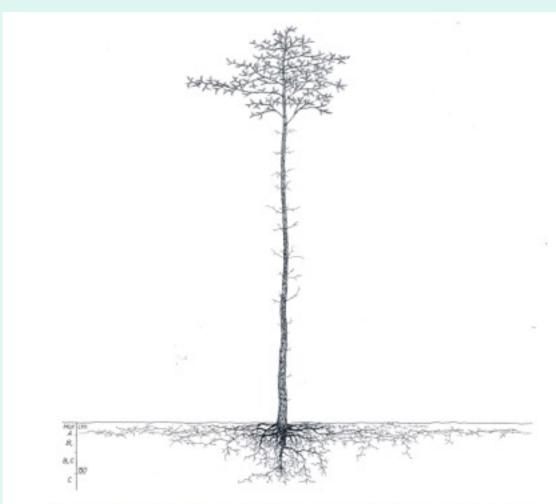
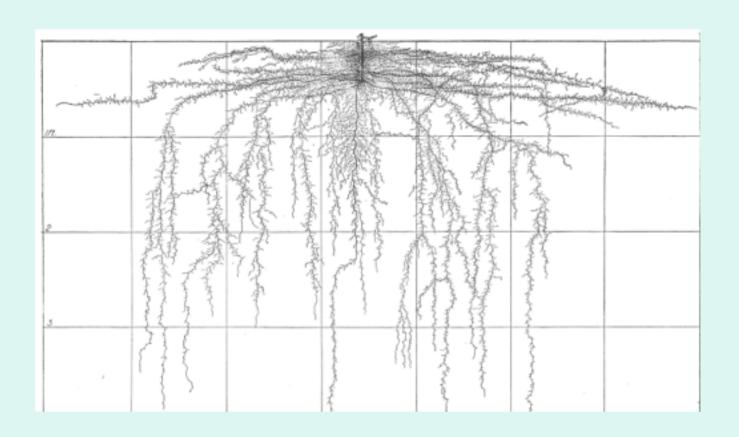
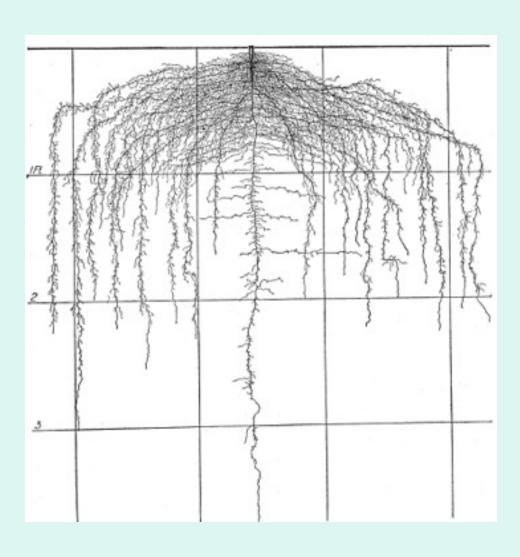


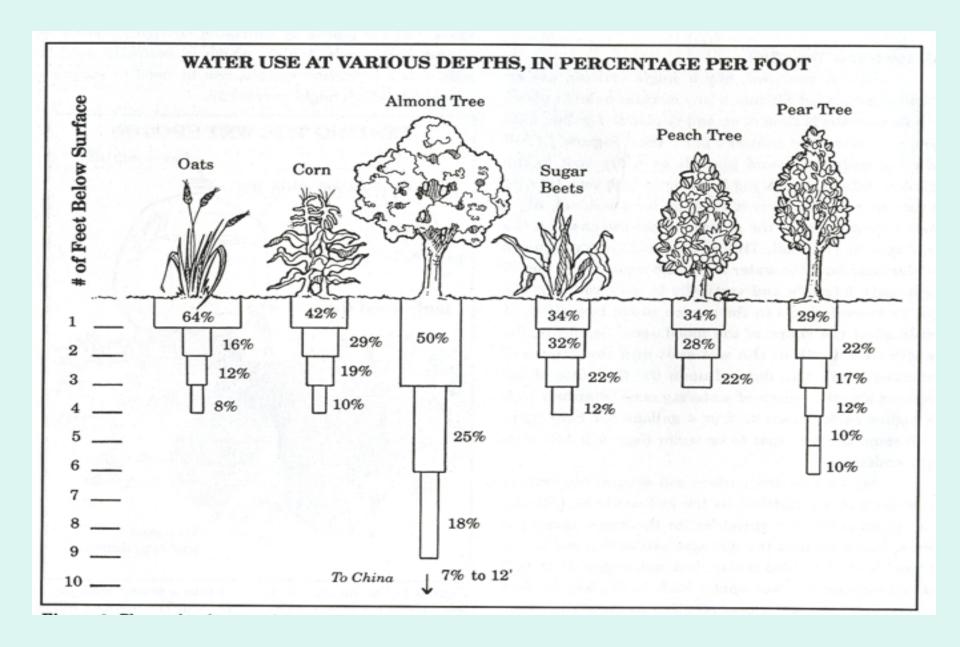
Abb. 30: Wald-Kiefer, Pisus sylvestris subsp. sylvestris, H-T-S = 1.173-180-1.340 cm, nahe Klagenfurt, eben, 450 m NN. Eichen-Hainbuchen-Wald mit vereinzelten Kiefern. Lockersediment-Besunerde über Niederterrasse, Bodenprofil Hor: A, 0-10 cm stark humoser, lehmiger Sand, krümelig, locker, stark durchwurzelt, A, 10-39 cm humoser l S, kiesig, locker, stark durchwurzelt, B, 39-90 cm l S, stärker kiesig-schotterig, locker, millig stark durchwurzelt, B, C 90-150 cm l S, sehr steinig, locker, Durchwurzelung stark abnehmend, C Sand, Kies und Schotter, sehr locker, Durchwurzelung auslaufend, ab 150 cm Tiefe schwach grundfeuchs.

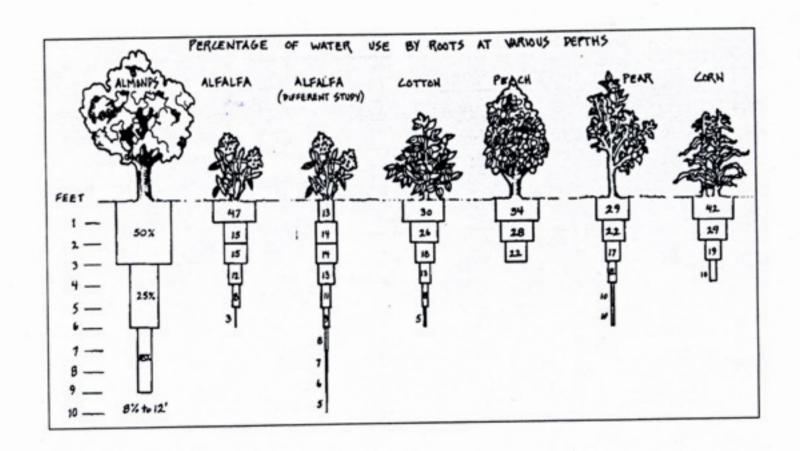
Tomato

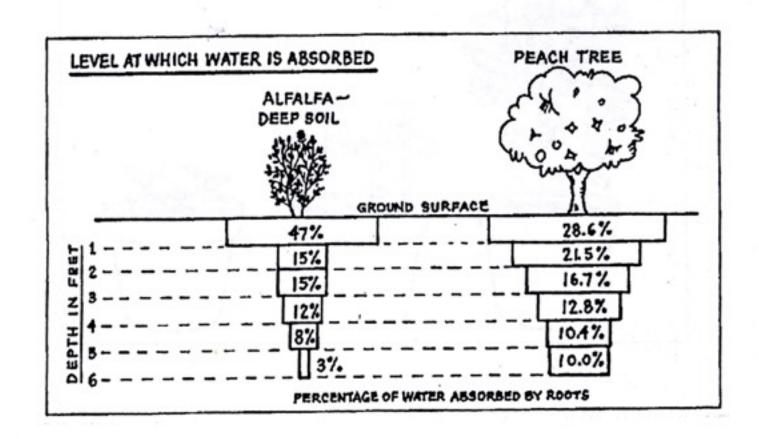


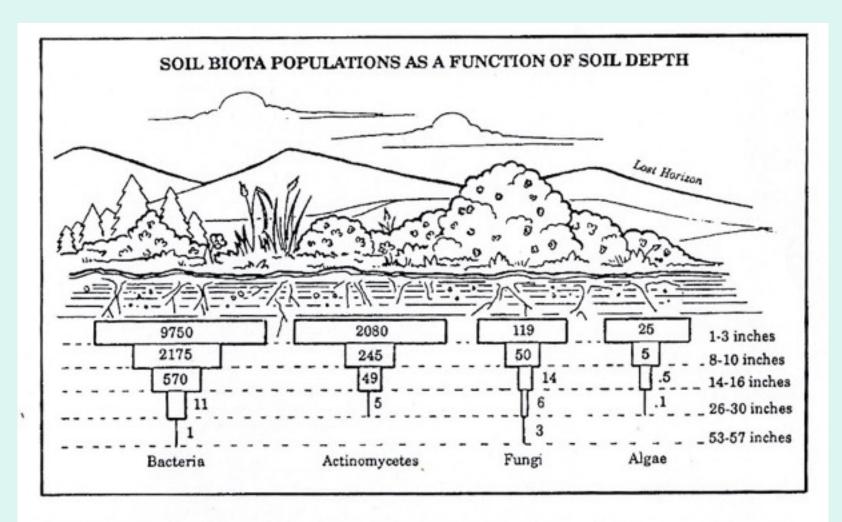
Lettuce



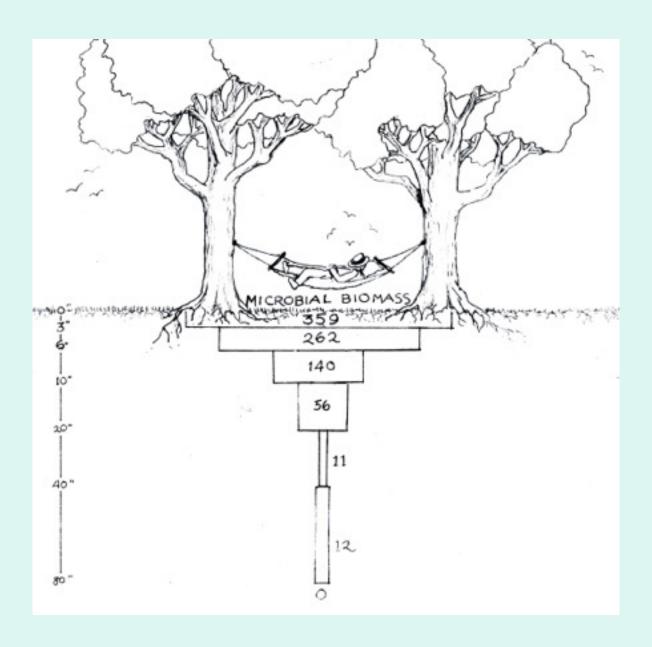


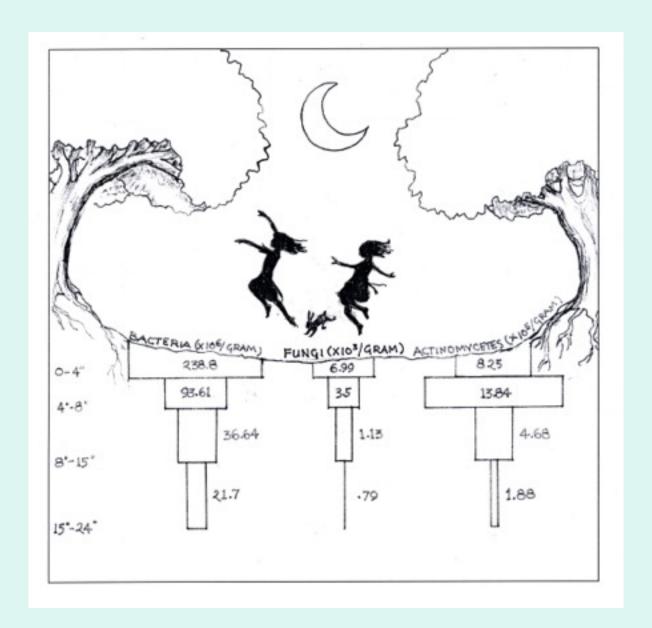


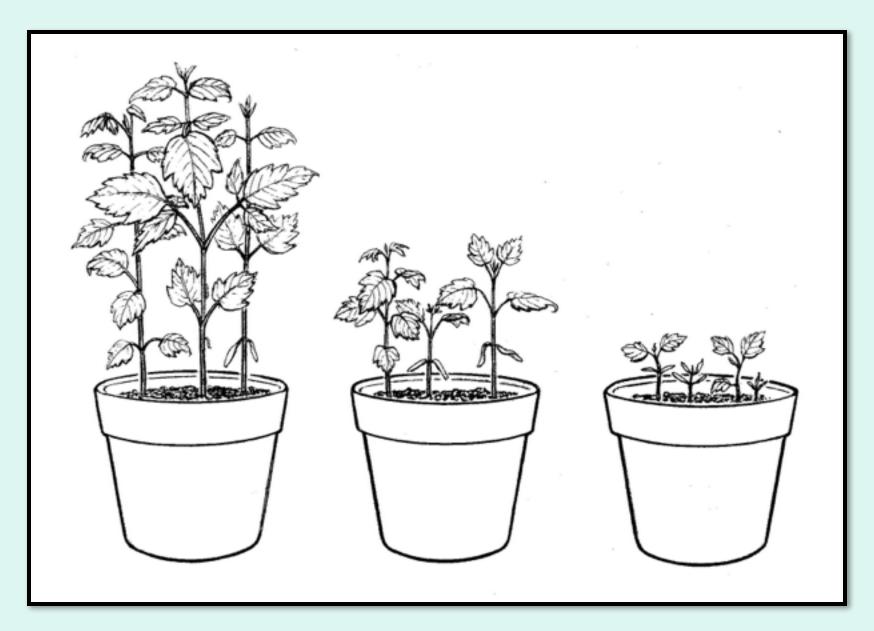




This illustration shows how dramatic the difference is between the surface-loving soil life and soil life just a bit deeper. Tillage disrupts this natural layering until the various "critters" have a chance to repopulate the level of soil they prefer the most.



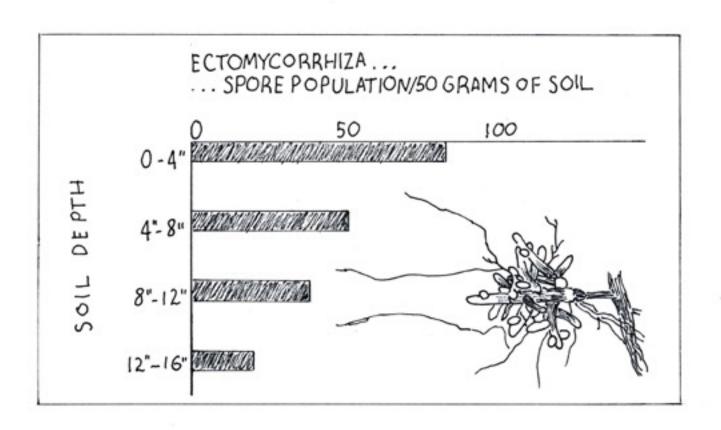


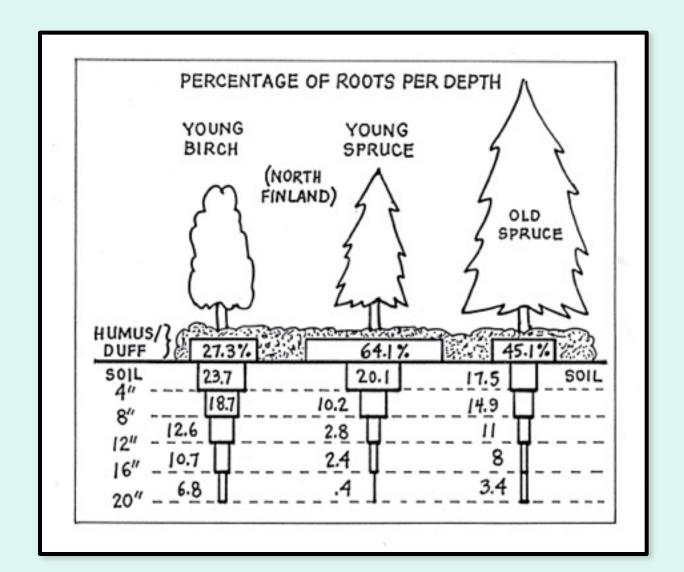


1-2 inches

2-4 inches

subsoil





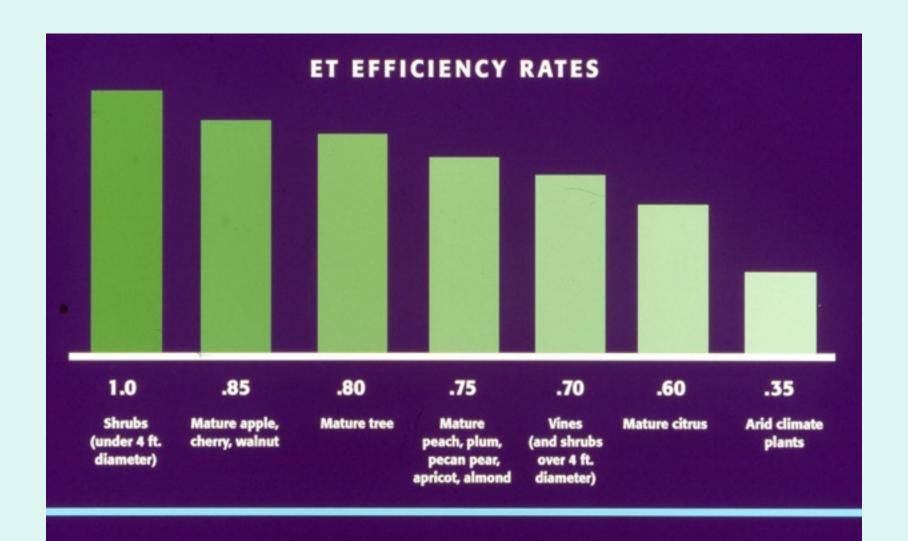
WARNING!!

MATH AHEAD

Daily Water Use (In Gallons per Day)

BASED ON VARIOUS EVAPOTRANSPIRATION RATES

Square Feet	ET Rate (in inches/month)										
of Plant Cover	1"	2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"	9"	10"	
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4 sq. ft.	0.075	0.15	0.248	0.332	0.416	0.5	0.58	0.664	0.75	0.832	
10 sq. ft.	0.187	0.374	0.62	0.83	1.04	1.25	1.45	1.66	1.87	2.08	
75 sq. ft.	1.403	2.805	4.65	6.225	7.8	9.4	10.875	12.45	14.0	15.6	
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200 sq. ft.	3.74	7.480	12.4	16.6	20.8	25.0	29.0	33.2	37.4	41.6	
300 sq.ft.	5.61	11.22	18.6	24.9	32.2	37.5	43.5	49.8	56.1	62.4	
1 acre solid cover	815	1629	2701	3615	4530	5445	6316	7231	8146	9060	



WUCOLS is the acronym for Water Use Classifications of Landscape Species.

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			REG
TYPE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	1
Gc P	Achillea tomentosa	woolly yarrow	L
Р	Aconitum napellus	garden monkshood	M
Р	Acorus gramineus	sweet flag	Н
V	Actinidia arguta	kiwi/Tara	М
V	Actinidia deliciosa	kiwi	Н
S	Adenanthos drummondii	woolly bush	?

Very Low = <0.1, Low = .1-.3, Moderate = .4-.6, High = .7-.9

Irrigation Needs of Well-Established Landscape Species Determined from Field Research

•	Potentilla tabernaemontani	0.5 - 0.75
•	Sedum acre	0.25
•	Cerastium tomentosum	0.25
•	Liquidambar styraciflua	0.20
•	Quercus ilex	0.20
•	Ficus microcarpa nitida	0.20
•	Gazania hybrida	0.25-0.50
•	Baccharis pilularis	0.20

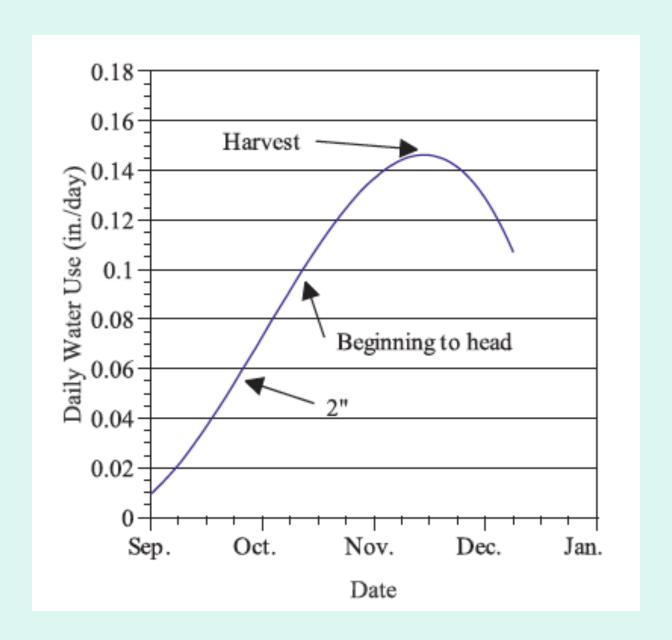
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	L
Artemisia 'Powis Castle'	'Powis Castle'	VL
Coreopsis auriculata	Coreopsis	L
Erigeron karvinskianus	L	
Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve	L	
Euphorbia cyparissias	Perennial Spurge	L
Helianthemum nummular	ium Sunrose	L
Osteospermum fruiticosum	African Daisy	L
Phormium t. 'Atropurpure	eum' Flax	L
Salvia greggii	Autumn Sage	L
Sisyrinchium californicum	Blue-eyed Grass	VL

Very Low = <0.1, Low = .1-.3 Urban Tree Farm, Santa Rosa, CA

Table 3 Crop Coefficients for Forage, Vegetables and Berries

Crop	Kc _{ini}	Kc _{mid}	Kc _{end}
alfalfa	0.4	1.2	1.15
asparagus	0.3	0.95	0.3
beans, green	0.5	1.05	0.9
beets	0.5	1.05	0.95
blueberries	0.4	1.0	0.75
broccoli	0.7	1.05	0.95
cabbage	0.7	1.05	0.95
cabbage -local	0.7	1.05	0.95
carrots	0.7	1.05	0.95
cauliflower	0.7	1.05	0.95
cranberries	0.4	0.9	0.50
celery	0.7	1.05	0.95
cereal	0.3	1.15	0.25
corn	0.3	1.15	0.4
cucumber	0.6	1	0.75
green onions	0.7	1.05	0.95
lettuce	0.7	1	0.95

Crop	Kc _{ini}	Kc _{mid}	Kc _{end}
onions	0.7	1.05	0.95
pasture (grass)	0.4	1.0	0.85
peas	0.5	1.15	1.1
potato	0.5	1.15	0.75
pumpkin	0.5	1	0.8
radish	0.7	0.9	0.85
raspberries	0.4	1.2	0.75
small vegetables	0.70	1.05	0.95
spinach	0.7	1.05	0.95
strawberries	0.4	1.05	0.7
squash	0.5	0.95	0.75
sweet corn	0.3	1.15	0.4
sweet peppers	0.7	1.05	0.85
tomato	0.7	1.05	0.8
tubers	0.5	1.05	0.95
watermelon	0.4	1	0.75



$ET_L = K_C x ET_o$

Landscape Evapotranspiration = Landscape Coefficient (K_C) x Reference Evapotranspiration

Santa Rosa 0.03 0.06 0.09 0.14 0.18 0.21 0.21 0.19 0.15 0.10 0.05 0.03 (daily rate)

(inches) Jan Feb M Ap May J Jly Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec (Daily ET in inches. Xs 31 = Monthly Rate.)



2	1.24	1.68	3.10	3.90	4.65	5.10	4.96	4.65	3.90	2.79	1.80	1.24	39.0
3	1.86	2.24	3.72	4.80	5.27	5.70	5.58	5.27	4.20	3.41	2.40	1.86	46.3
	1.86		the second second second second								A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		
5	0.93	1.68	2.79	4.20	5.58	6.30	6,51	5.89	4.50	3.10	1.50	0.93	43.9
6	1.86	2.24	3.41	4.80	5.58	6.30	6.51	6.20	4.80	3.72	2.40	1.86	49.7

Jan Feb M Apr May J Jly Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Total

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cauliflower	0.7	1.05	0.95
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celery	0.7	1.05	0.95
cereal	0.3	1.15	0.25
com	0.3	1.15	0.4
cucumber	0.6	1	0.75
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lettuce	0.7	1	0.95

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spinach	0.7	1.05	0.95
strawberries	0.4	1.05	0.7
squash	0.5	0.95	0.75
sweet corn	0.3	1.15	0.4
sweet peppers	0.7	1.05	0.85
tomato	0.7	1.05	0.8
tubers	0.5	1.05	0.95
watermelon	0.4	1	0.75

 $ET_L = K_C x ET_o$ Asparagus = 0.95 X 0.21 = 0.19 inches/day

 $0.19 \times 31 = 5.89$ inches/month (June/July) in Santa Rosa, CA

$$4' \times 10' = 40 \text{ sq. ft.}$$

$$ET = 6$$
"

10 sq.ft. = 1.25 gallons
$$X 4 = 5$$
 gallons

40 ft. = 40 emitters

5 gal. ÷ 40 - 1gph emitters = .125 hours

 $60 \times .125 = 7.5 \text{ minutes}$

With 1/2gph emitters – 15 minutes/day

(once/week = 7 X 15 = 105 min. = 1.75 hrs.)

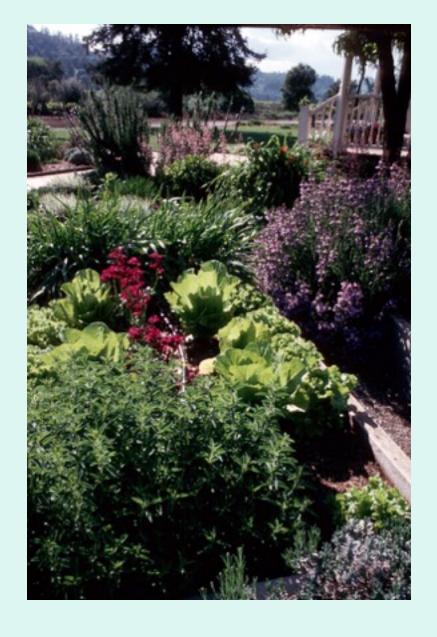
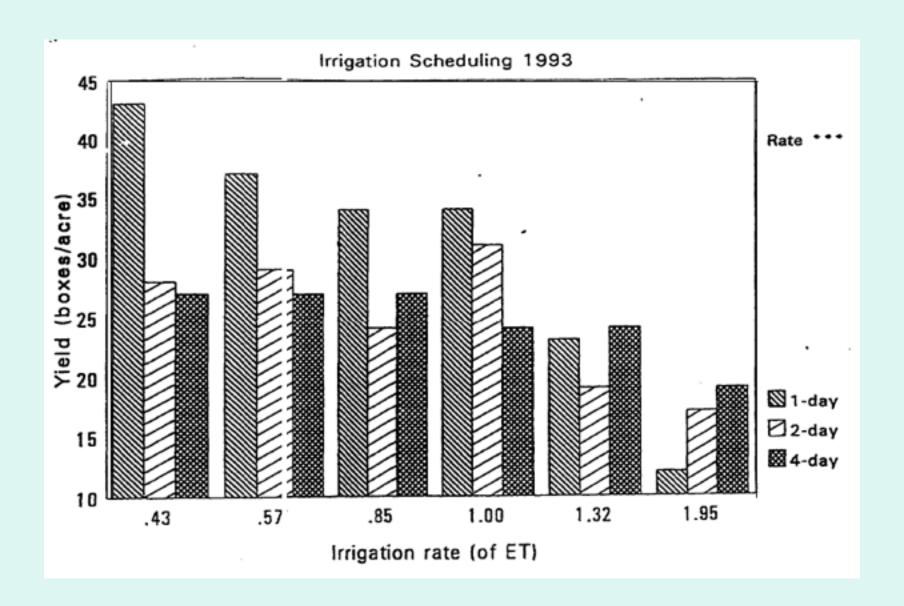


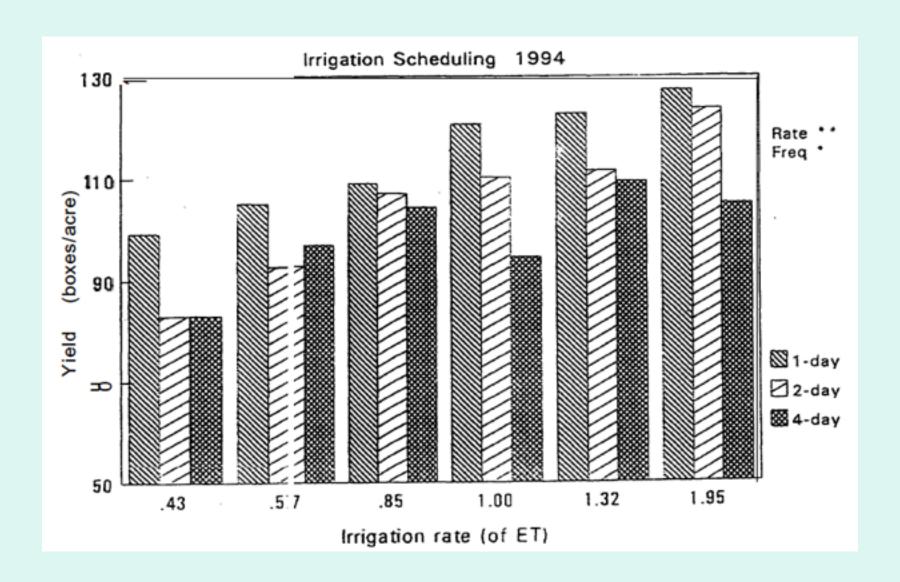
Table 1. Average relative yields by crop and drip irrigation frequency for irrigation frequencies of two irrigations per day, one irrigation per day, two irrigations per week, and one irrigation per week. Relative yields were calculated as the ratio of the average crop yield of a given irrigation frequency to the yield of the irrigation frequency with the maximum yield for that crop.

		Relative yield								
Irrigation frequency	Onion	Fall lettuce ^z	Spring lettuce ^z	Pepper	1st tomato crop ^z	2nd tomato crop ²				
2 irrigations/d	0.94 a	1.00 a	0.90 a	0.88 ab	0.87 b	0.95 a				
1 irrigation/d	1.00 a	1.00 a	1.00 a	1.00 a	1.00 a	0.98 a				
2 irrigations/week	0.91 a	0.91 a	0.91 a	0.91 a	0.90 ab	1.00 a				
l irrigation/week	0.77 b	0.77 a	0.91 a	0.86 b	0.88 ab	0.92 a				
CV (%)	9.62	16.13	12.78	10.38	10.20	9.16				

Table 2. Average relative yields of the pepper grades. Relative yields were calculated as the ratio of the average crop yield of a given irrigation frequency to the yield of the irrigation frequency with the maximum yield for that crop. Grade ratings are extra large [50 to 60 peppers/30-lb (13.6-kg) box], large (60 to 70 peppers/box), medium (70 to 85 peppers/box), and culls (>85 peppers/box).

Irrigation frequency	Relative yields of pepper grades			
	Extra large ^z	Large ^z	Medium ²	Culls ^z
2 irrigations/d	0.66 a	0.88 a	0.95 ab	0.81 b
1 irrigation/d	1.00 a	1.00 a	1.00 a	0.85 ab
2 irrigations/week	0.79 a	0.94 a	0.92 ab	1.00 a
1 irrigation/week	0.80 a	0.94 a	0.83 b	0.88 ab
cv (%)	35.03	21.61	11.17	14.58

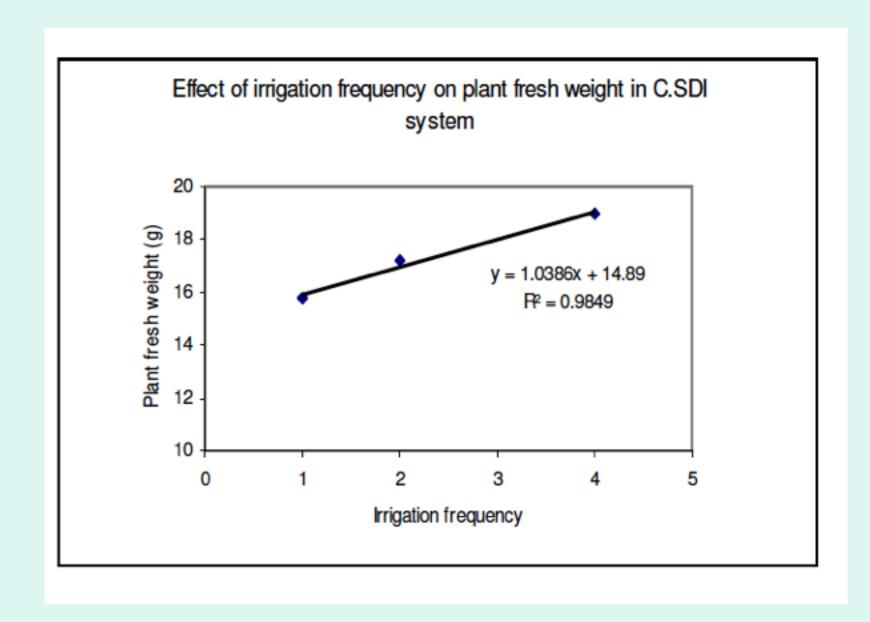






 $K_C = .7$ early 1 mid .95 late

SUMMARY. The effect on crop yield of drip-irrigation frequencies of two irrigations per day (2/d), one irrigation per day (1/d), two irrigations per week (2/week), and one irrigation per week (1/week) was investigated for lettuce (Lactuca sativa), pepper (Capsicum annuum), and onion (Allium cepa) grown on sandy loam and processing tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum) grown on silt loam during experiments conducted during 1994 to 1997. All treatments of a particular crop received the same amount of irrigation water per week. Results showed that the 1/week frequency should be avoided for the shallow rooted crops in sandy soil. Irrigation frequency had little effect on yield of tomato, a relatively deep-rooted crop. These results suggest that drip irrigation frequencies of 1/d or 2/week are appropriate in medium to fine texture soils for the soil and climate of the project site. There was no yield benefit of multiple irrigations per day.

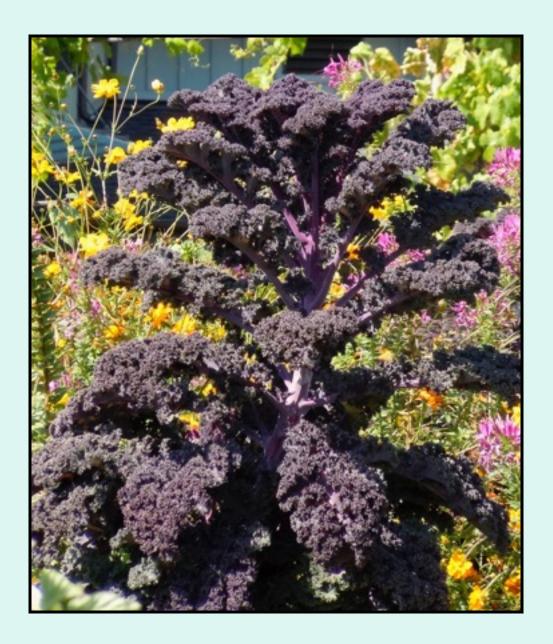


 $K_C =$

.7 early

1.05 mid

.95 late



 $K_C = .3$



K_C =

.5 early

.97 mid

.5 late



K_C =

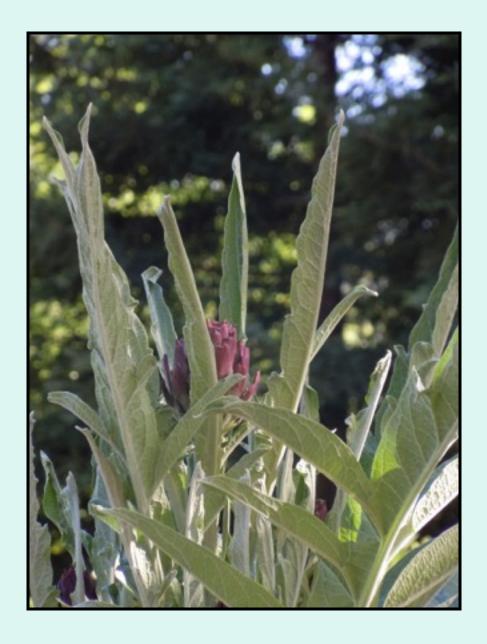
- .5 early
- .97 mid
- .5 late



 $K_C = .2$

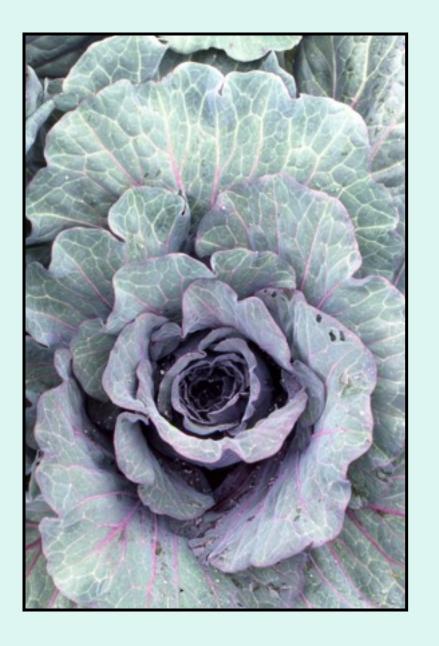


 $K_C = .5$ early 1.05 mid .5 late



? .25

 $K_C = .7$ early 1.05 mid .95 late





 $K_C = .7$ early 1.05 mid .85 late



 $K_C = .4 - .6$



 K_C = Thyme .4 -.6, Lavender = .1-.3 (Foxglove .4 - .6)

Food Gallons per Pound

Lettuce 23

Tomatoes 30

Carrots 33

Apples 49

Potatoes 60

Broccoli 65

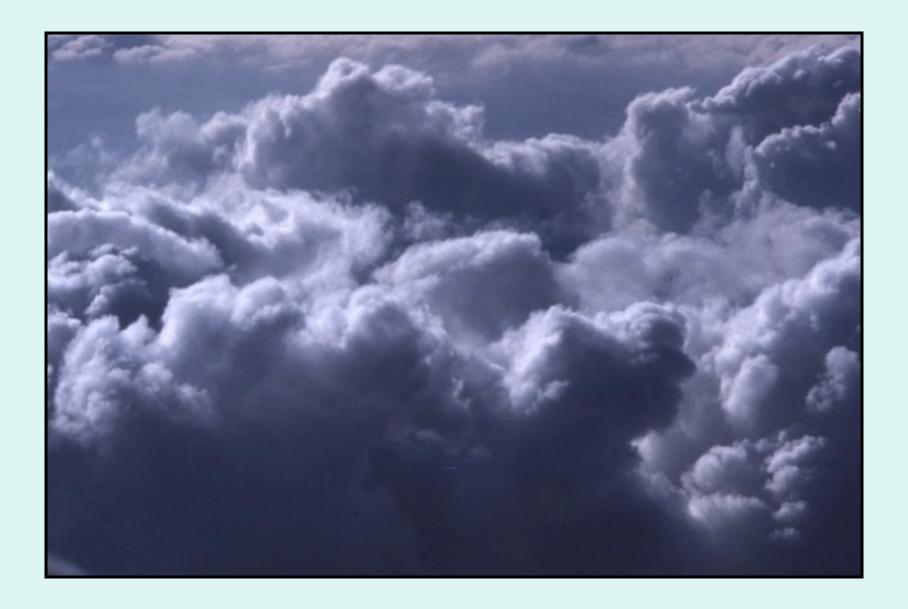
Cantaloupe 80

Corn 168



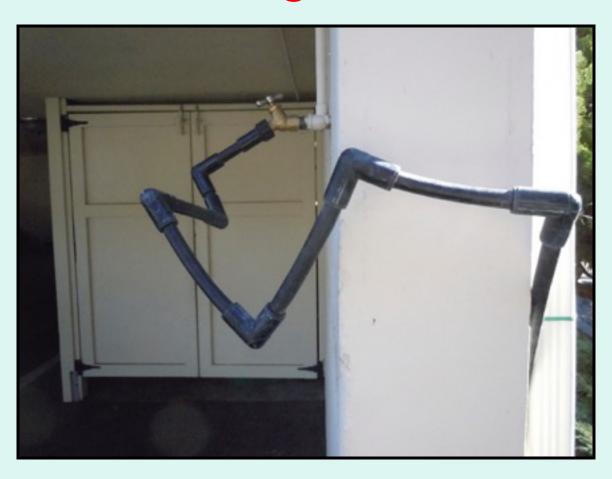




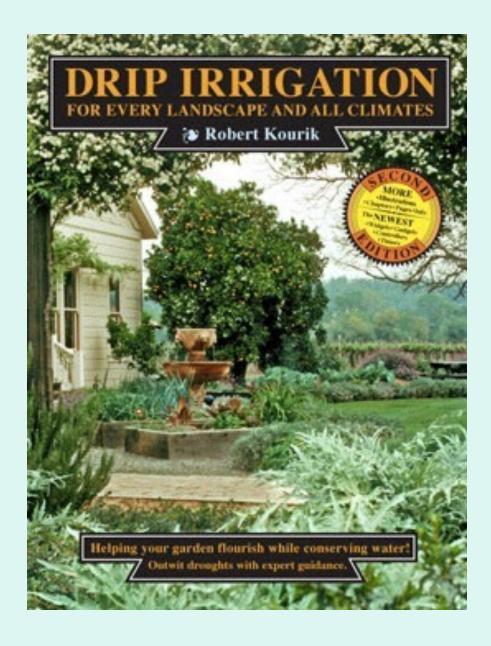


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Barrel Size Height above the drip system 1/4" run

50 gallon 8" 10'

50 gallon 12" 10'

50 gallon 16" 14'

