

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Drip Irrigation System Maintenance



During each irrigation set:

Check for leaks and breaks throughout the system and repair as needed
\rightarrow For buried drip, look for overly saturated areas
\rightarrow Listen for leaks, especially when working with plastic mulch



Check the pressure throughout the system (mainline, submain, laterals) and ensure that it is running appropriately

- → This can be achieved by installing pressure gauges throughout the system or installing Schrader valves and checking the pressure using a personal gauge (this option is more cost effective)
- ightarrow Consult manufacturer specifications to confirm the system's optimal operation pressure

Check filters – if significant pressure is being lost through the filter (as
measured on Schrader valves upstream and downstream of the filter), they
likely need to be cleaned

- $\rightarrow\,$ Clean screen filters using a brush or soaking
- $\rightarrow\,$ Sand filters can be backwashed

Flush the lines starting from the mainline and move down through the system (mainline, submain, laterals)

- $\rightarrow\,$ Done at the beginning or end of an irrigation set
- ightarrow Done less frequently depending on injection times, substances injected, and water quality
- → Installing flush valves at the end of every line will flush the system before and after each irrigation set

Notes:

This list is intended for use by irrigators, irrigation managers and irrigation consultants. For system specifications please consult manufacturer's specifications and irrigation design consultants. For more materials and information visit our website at <u>http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/FREP</u> or Google "CDFA FREP."

Duio.	

Date:

Repairs	Yes	No
Location(s):	

System pr	essure (psi):
Pump:	
Main:	
Submain:	
Laterals:	

Cleaned filter
Yes
🗌 No

Flushed	lines
🗌 Yes	
🗌 No	