

SECTION 5: SUPPORT PRACTICES

Drip Tape Irrigation System

DRIP TAPE IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Description

Drip Tape Irrigation is used to **increase the success of vegetation establishment and growth** in Soxx™ that utilize GrowingMedia™ and are to be vegetated by seed or live stakes. Drip Tape Irrigation utilizes a low volume and low pressure system. Typical applications yield approximately 6 gal (23 L) of water per minute per 1000 linear feet (305m). Recommended Drip Tape shall require between 8 and 12 PSI (0.6-0.8 kg/square cm) per 1000 linear ft (305m). Due to these requirements, Drip Tape Irrigation used in Soxx may use a variety of water sources ranging from garden hoses, to small or large volume pumps. Pressure and volume reducers are available to utilize large volume pump sources. Drip Tape Irrigation may become clogged if a water screen is not installed prior to the pressure reducer entering the irrigation system.

Drip Tape Irrigation for use in Filtrex applications shall be installed between the Soxx and the GrowingMedia. The Drip Tape selected must be flat (not cylindrical). The Drip Tape is flat in construction until water moves through and inflates the tape system, creating pressure to activate the drip apertures. Drip Tape Irrigation which is not of a flat construction may easily kink or bend upon installation and due to the rigidity of the tube wall, may not inflate and allow water to flow freely. Drip Tape Irrigation shall be a continuous section when installed; however, joints may be used to connect sections where Soxx are installed in multiple layers or on turns greater than 45 degrees. It is not recommended to install Drip Tape along a turn greater than 45 degrees without proper joint installation. EarthBloxx™ is the only application to use cylindrical drip tape, due to wall configuration.

Function

Drip tape irrigation is recommended for *supplemental* irrigation for applications where vegetation is intended within Soxx. It is not recommended as the only source of water supply. Typically, Drip Tape Irrigation is used during the vegetation establishment phase of the project and throughout the first growing season. It may also be used during periods of drought or in semi-arid and arid environments where vegetation establishment and sustainability may be difficult.

Installation

1. Drip Tape Irrigation for use in Filtrex applications shall be installed by a Filtrex® CertifiedSM Installer.

2. Drip Tape Irrigation is to be installed at the time of Soxx installation. Installation method involves installing the Drip Tape in between the Soxx and the GrowingMedia during Soxx filling.
3. Unbroken runs of Drip Tape are preferred; however, couplers, elbows, tees, and angle connections may be installed to join sections.
4. A pressure/volume reducer shall be installed at the highest point of elevation for the area to be irrigated. The water source must connect to the reducer and flow by gravitational means.
5. End points of the Drip Tape may be closed with an irrigation plug or folded closed according to drip tape manufacturer's specifications.

Inspection & Maintenance

If Drip Tape Irrigation becomes damaged, clogged, or is moved to a section of the Soxx where it becomes ineffective, it shall be repaired, replaced, and/or reinstalled according to specifications.

Method of Measurement

Bid items shall show measurement as Drip Tape Irrigation System + Filtrex® BMP per linear ft or per linear m installed within Filtrex® Soxx™.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For other references on this topic, including additional research reports and trade magazine and press coverage, visit the Filtrex website at www.filtrex.com

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