

Automated Garden Irrigation



When the rain neglects your garden, automated irrigation steps in as the saviour of all things green. An automated garden irrigation system will ensure that your garden is watered regularly and efficiently.

Driptech can assist you in developing a well-designed automated irrigation system which will allow for the correct amount of water to be applied evenly over your whole garden at the right intervals. This is without anybody having to remember to move the sprinklers or switch the pump on or off. As the water tables around Zimbabwe's cities continue to drop, saving water while keeping your garden green or even alive is a growing concern. With this type of irrigation system, you can greatly reduce overwatering and thereby save water, whilst still keeping your garden looking lush and green.

The first thing to consider in the design process is the flow of water available and the size of the area to be irrigated. Generally in Harare, you will need a minimum constant flow of 2,000 litres per hour from your borehole to fully irrigate a half hectare garden. If you do not know the capacity of your borehole, you can measure it by timing how long it takes to fill a tank of known volume and calculating the flow in litres per hour. As the amount of water you have increases, the duration of irrigation will decrease. Do not become despondent if nature has not been kind to you, and you do not have a prolific borehole: you can get around this by collecting the water in a storage tank and then boosting it to the sprinklers with a booster pump.

In terms of the actual setup, the sprinklers should be positioned on a 12m x 12m grid throughout the garden and each sprinkler position will be assessed and a specific nozzle fitted depending on the area it services. The sprinklers are then grouped together into zones so that the total flow required for each zone does not exceed the flow of water available. An average garden will require up to 30 sprinklers, which would be divided between 6 and 10 zones each requiring roughly the same flow. If you have areas using micro jets or drip irrigation, these must have their own zones as the application rates of these systems are very different to pop up sprinklers.

The next step in the process is to establish a manifold of valves, one for each zone, within close proximity to the controller. A network of pipes must then be laid to service each zone. Once the entire system is connected, the controller



can be programmed to start at a specific time and it will open and close the valves, sequentially watering each zone at the specified time. This will allow for watering in the evening or early morning conveniently without any labour actually being needed.

If you fancy a practical demonstration, Driptech has working automatic systems at our Avondale and Glenara branches where our staff will gladly guide you through the functionality and setup of the system.

Driptech supplies all of the equipment required to sprinkle some happiness back into your garden, and if you feel adventurous and want to install it yourself we can help you in designing the perfect scheme for you. Alternatively, we can put you in touch with a contractor who will assist you.



www.driptech.co.zw

VISIT ANY OF OUR DRIPTECH BRANCHES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AUTOMATED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

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