



DIY Drip Irrigation Bucket



During drought trees can benefit from periodic deep watering. Learn how to deep water your trees with a simple do-it-yourself drip irrigation bucket.

Drip watering systems save water by controlling how fast water is applied to the soil. Slowing the spread of water allows for the water to be fully absorbed, minimizing loss due to run-off. Less frequent, deeper watering also encourages plants to put down longer roots, making them more water efficient.

Instructions:

1) To create a drip irrigation bucket, you simply need a five gallon bucket and a drill. Start with a 1/32 inch drill bit and place one or two holes in the center of the bucket. If you don't have a drill, you can also use a hammer and a nail.

2) Next, position the bucket over the root zone next to the tree or plant that needs deep watering, and fill with water. How long the bucket takes to empty will depend on the size of the bucket and the number of holes, but the key is to make sure the water is infiltrating slowly enough to be absorbed.

This system can also be used with the water that would otherwise be lost as you wait for your shower to warm up. Simply catch shower water in a different container, then carry it to your drip irrigation bucket. Additionally, adding a layer of mulch around your trees can minimize evaporation.

For more information on tree watering visit SantaBarbaraCA.gov/TreeWatering.