



Nursery & Garden Industry
Queensland

Knowing Your Irrigation and Drainage System

How much do you know about your irrigation and drainage? Knowledge of your irrigation and drainage systems helps you to make informed decisions on required system changes. The following short questionnaire will help to identify those areas you may need to look at to improve your irrigation and drainage systems.

Irrigation

- Do you have a water meter on your irrigation supply?
- How much water do you currently use per annum?
- In the middle of summer what is the highest daily water requirement?
- How much is water worth to your business in dollars/Megalitre
- For each irrigation zone in the nursery do you know the sprinkler being used, the operating pressure, Mean Application Rate, Coefficient of Uniformity and Scheduling Coefficient?
- How often do you check the block pressures on the irrigation system?
- How often do you check the Mean Application Rates (MAR) on your nursery?
- Do you recycle your irrigation runoff?
- Do you collect the storm water runoff from your roofs and production areas separately?
- Which plants that you grow require the most water to produce?
- How much water do these plants require for a full production run?
- What plants require the least amount of water to produce?
- How much water do these plants require for a full production run?
- Do you check the quality of your drainage water and, if so, how often?

- How often do you schedule your irrigation?
- How do you change your irrigation practice under water restrictions or low water availability?

Drainage

- What components make up your drainage system? Surface earth drains, surface concrete drains, surface sealed drains other than concrete, pipe drains, slotted drainage pipes, sediment traps, interception traps, water treatment, and collection sumps/storage?
- What methods do you use to minimise downstream pollution?
- Does the current drainage system require maintenance e.g. erosion, ponding water?
- Does your drainage system meet all necessary state and local regulations?
- What are your recycling options?
- Is your drainage water storage of sufficient capacity to store the wettest month's runoff volume?

From this questionnaire, does your drainage system need upgrading?

The information contained in an Irrigation Drainage and Energy Management Plan (IDEMP) helps to answer many of the above questions, and gives you an action plan to prioritise the changes that need to be made to improve your overall system efficiency. Contact NGIQ or your Farm Management Systems Officers for more information on IDEMPs .

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