GEKA®

Tips & Tricks

DRIP SYSTEM

PLANNING

I already have a drip irrigation system. Which systems is GEKA Drip compatible with?

The GEKA Drip System is compatible with other systems if the pipe diameter is the same. Gardena offers an adapter that allows you to change from the Gardena-specific diameter 13 mm to the standard market diameter of 16 mm.

Can fertiliser be used with the drip tubes?

When using fertiliser, make sure that it is water-soluble. Otherwise, the use of non-water-soluble fertiliser could lead to deposits and blockages in the drippers and pipes.

ASSEMBLY

Can I connect my drip irrigation system directly to my my domestic water supply?

When connecting to the drinking water network, the drinking water protection requirements in accordance with the Drinking Water Ordinance must be observed and you may need to use a system separator. If you have any questions, please contact your local water supplier or a specialised plumbing company.

Connecting the pipes easily

How can I connect the pipes more easily?

The pipes are made of PE. The pipe and connector must be very tightly connected to each other to ensure tightness. For this reason, some force is required to push them on. **TIP:** Utilise the power of the sun and lay the pipes in the sun before installation. The sunlight will make the pipes softer and more flexible and easier to install. **ALTERNATIVELY:** hold the pipe ends in hot water, e.g. in a thermos flask, dip the pipe ends in the hot water for a few seconds and slide them over the connectors. Wearing gardening gloves provides additional grip.

Laying length with different positioning of the pressure reducer

There are two options for positioning the pressure reducer: at the start of the irrigation line or in the centre. This influences the maximum installation length of the pipes.

Pressure reducer at the beginning of the line:
Drip tube 6 mm: approx. 15 m
Drip tube 16 mm: approx. 80 m
Dripper: max. 15 drippers in a row

Pressure reducer in the centre:
Drip tube 6 mm: max. 30 m (recommended max. length per branch: 10 m)
Drip tube 16 mm: max. 150 m (recommended max. length per branch: 50 m)
Dripper: 40-50 drippers (recommendation max. 15 drippers per branch)

Can I connect GEKA Drip irrigation line 16 mm with 6 mm?

We offer a T-reducer (item no. 17.0126.8) as an accessory, which you can use to connect the two systems together.

How do you install the drip pipe?

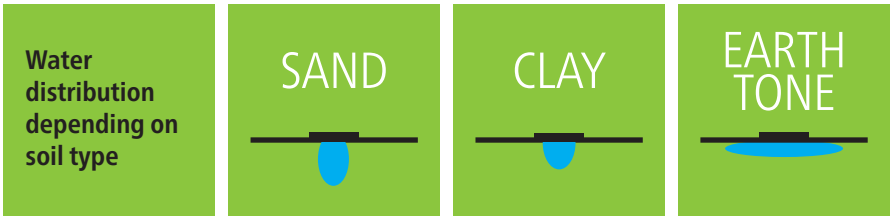
a) Video tutorials
We have created three different video tutorials explaining how to install our drip irrigation sets: **https://www.geka.de/en/videos**

b) Further instructions for laying hedges/shrubs and perennials:
The drip pipe is laid along the trunks of the hedge plants. If you do not want the pipes to be visible, it is advisable to lay them behind the trunks or to cover the pipes loosely with bark mulch. Bark mulch also ensures that the water is stored for longer. The pipe can be fixed approx. every 2 metres or as required with ground spikes.

TIP: If there is an increased need for water, the drip pipe is led in front of and behind the trunk of the hedge.

The water released by the drippers spreads underground in the form of a bulb, which can vary depending on the substrate. The irrigation width is approx. 30 cm.

Types of distribution:
In clayey soil, the drip pipes can be spaced further apart due to the compact subsoil. In sandy soils, on the other hand, the pipes should be installed closer together.



c) Further instructions for laying raised beds:
The drip tube can either be laid in strips parallel to the long side or in loops along the short side. The spacing should be max. 30 cm for pipes with a diameter of 16 mm and approx. 15-20 cm for drip pipes with a diameter of 6 mm. The spacing can also be slightly smaller in the raised bed.

Can the pipes also be installed underground?
The supply pipes can be laid underground, while the drip pipes are designed for above-ground installation. The advantage of above-ground installation is the visual inspection and maintenance options.

MAINTENANCE

Frost protection - Can the system be left outside in winter?
The pressure reducer must be removed (not frost-proof) and any residual water in the pipes Empty any residual water in the pipes, then the system can remain outside. If an irrigation controller is used, this must also be removed (not frost-proof).

How should the system be maintained?
Drain the pipes completely at the end of the season to protect them from frost in winter. If necessary, flush the pipes with citric or acetic acid to remove deposits.

How can I prevent blocked pipes or remove limescale deposits?
If the water is **not** taken directly from the outside tap, it should be pre-filtered for drip irrigation to prevent blockages. Water still causes limescale deposits over time. At the end of the season, these can be rinsed with diluted citric acid or acetic acid to dissolve any limescale deposits. Then rinse with clean water.
Please note: The pipes should be removed from the plants before maintenance/cleaning.