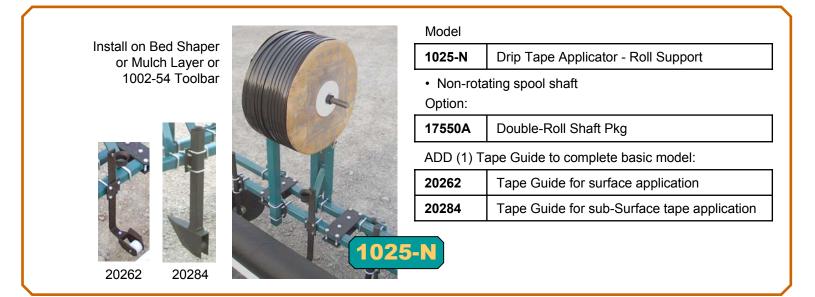


Garden Series DRIP TAPE APPLICATOR

Simple field equipment for homesteads or hobby farms

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GARDEN EQUIPMENT PRIMER

ROW ARRANGEMENTS

Let us further help you organize your garden into row crops. A bed top of approximately 24" is intended to support a single crop row but two rows are possible for some crops like onions, garlic or beets. A bed top closer to 30" supports one or two rows, with two rows spaced 12" to 18" apart, which better supports crops like tomatoes or peppers. Three rows at 8" or 9" spacing is possible, which works best when also using mulch for weed control.

With one row on a raised bed, lay a single drip tape line. With two rows on one bed, lay one drip tape line in the center to water both rows. Rarely is two tape lines for two rows up to 18" apart actually necessary - maybe for sprouting seeds.

DRIP TAPE APPLICATORS

The 1025-N Drip Tape Applicator can be added to the Bed Shaper to bury tape as beds are formed. Or mount on the mulch layer to either bury or lay tape on top (between soil and plastic). Applicators can also be set-up on a separate toolbar. Bury tape 1 or 2 inches deep in the loose seedbed soil to hold tape in place and hide from rodents. Bury 4" deep to cultivate over-top the tape. Tape on the soil surface can be convenient but tends to be subject to wind, rodents and "snaking" between cool nights and warm days. With water issues increasing in national and global politics, some form of drip irrigation is likely here to stay to maximize water efficiency. Drip tape can be re-used, either leaving it deeper in the ground under permanent beds or saving and re-applying each year. Filters and emitter cleaning methods are essential.

Drip irrigation has it's own purpose and is not a result of plastic mulch. Consistently deliver water directly to the plant to supplement rainfall, which is never predictable as a farmer would want it, and deliver nutrients in liquid or soluable form. Important: Water on schedule. Do not try to coordinate drip time with weather forecasts. Only "skip the drip" after a meaningful rainfall. With gardens and small farms, drip irrigation is most simple, especially since it can be connected to a household water system.



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