

# APPROACHING LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION LIKE A PRO



Lush landscapes are seen as a sign of good design and thriving communities. In many areas around the world, natural rainfall is insufficient to achieve verdant spaces. Therefore, turning to irrigation is of the essence. To get started, you will need an expert design. Here's how to look after your landscape like a pro...

## Different methods of landscape irrigation

Landscape irrigation is sometimes regarded as a waste of water. It is true that when done incorrectly, irrigating hundreds of square metres of greenery can quickly exhaust your pockets and water supply. But irrigation has come a long way from the time when dragging multiple hoses around your lawn and recklessly flooding the landscape was the norm. In fact, using an appropriate irrigation method can provide significant savings in water usage.

## The following methods are often used to irrigate landscapes:

### Micro-irrigation

Micro-irrigation, or micro-sprinkler irrigation, is an extremely efficient and water-savvy approach to irrigation. It delivers water directly to the surface of the soil, at low pressure and low volume, thereby minimising water wastage and energy costs.

### Rotary sprinklers

A rotary sprinkler is often used to irrigate lawns. Its head is designed to automatically rotate 360 degrees, spraying water through holes around the sprinkler's diameter.

### Overhead irrigation

Overhead sprinklers are mounted on an overhead network of pipes. Water is pumped in under pressure and sprayed down onto the plants from flat spray nozzles. The flow rate is 60%-70% lower than that of conventional sprinklers, while also having a low initial investment.

### Subsurface / underground irrigation

Pop-up heads arise only when in use, and are hidden from view and kept safe when dormant. These sprinklers are designed to distribute water evenly over lawn surfaces with a wetting pattern that mimics soaking rain.

### Flood irrigation

Flood irrigation delivers water to the field by ditch, pipe, or trench where it simply flows over the ground to the crop. Still used today, this method of irrigation is associated with a myriad issues, including high water usage, inconsistent crop growth, and the formation of large swamps in between field contours.

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## The bright side of proper landscape irrigation

The primary function of an irrigation system is to ensure that water is spread efficiently and regularly throughout a landscape. Nowadays, modern irrigation systems have evolved into a science. Smart pump designs – the invention of the centre pivot and smart sprinkler delivery systems – have revolutionised the ability to deliver water. Systems involve reservoirs, pumps, filters, pipes, emitters, and software, making the most of every drop of water.

## There are many benefits to having a professionally designed and efficient irrigation system:

- Irrigation creates a healthy vibrant-looking landscape.
- It helps water to effectively target the intended plant material.
- Efficient irrigation helps the environment by reducing the need for chemicals and fertilisers.
- It limits erosion and water runoff from landscapes.
- Proper irrigation (especially precision irrigation) saves time, and dramatically improves water and energy efficiency.

## The importance of quality components

High efficiency nozzles, pressure-regulated sprinkler heads, check valves, and smart controllers are all useful for enhancing the efficiency of your irrigation system. Investing in quality components extends the total lifetime of your system and minimises future maintenance. Visiting a trusted irrigation retailer like Agrico is a great starting point.

As the largest irrigation supplier in Southern Africa, Agrico embodies depth of knowledge and experience, with extensive design capabilities and first-class service. More than 30 branches with walk-in stores stock an extensive range of quality and well-priced irrigation components. Offering a large variety and full ranges of products, you can hunt for components that help you achieve savings.

## Ask an expert for help

Without a doubt, the knowledge and technology to irrigate sustainably exists. The problem lies in applying that knowledge and science in time and as a part of the design. Even the best irrigation system won't perform well if installed incorrectly. While DIY is great for hobby gardening or watering your houseplants, involving an expert is crucial when irrigating large landscapes. On this scale, even a small mistake can result in significant losses.

When looking to hire a designer or provider, always choose an expert in the field. Irrigation designers must consider various factors relevant to the system's desired application. For example, the type of irrigation system chosen is based on the landscape's size, elevation/topography, the weather, crop, and other key factors.

With more than 100 years of experience extensive design and engineering capabilities, Agrico is a trusted provider of irrigation. We design tailored irrigation solutions that meet your exact agricultural needs, and we work with you to achieve your most stunning landscape through reliable, efficient irrigation.