

Irrigation Systems

Irrigation systems supply water in a sufficient quantity to sustain turf under specific environmental conditions. They should provide uniform application of water at a rate that does not exceed infiltration capacity.

It is difficult to recommend the best irrigation system. System design, construction and operation influences overall performance. Field layouts, differences in pressure, sprinkler head sizes and spacing, and infiltration and percolation rates also influence the design of an irrigation system.

Portable Irrigation Systems

Disadvantages of portable systems:

- Need to be supervised to prevent overapplication
- Need to change position after each portion of the field is watered unless it is self propelled
- Uneven application of water
- May require large piping
- May require high amounts of pressure to operate efficiently

Advantages of portable systems:

- No underground piping that could develop leaks
- No sprinkler heads that could pose a risk to athletes

Installed Irrigation Systems

Disadvantages of installed systems:

- Possibility of leaks with installed pipes
- Incorrectly installed sprinkler heads

Advantages of installed systems:

- Convenient
- Provide the best uniformity
- Automatic clocks regulate timing and amounts applied
- Pop up heads are not a hazard as long as they are installed correctly