Quick Facts

- Drip irrigation is the slow, even application of low-pressure water to soil and plants using plastic tubing placed directly at the plants' root zone.
- Drip irrigation causes little evaporation or runoff, saves water by directing it more precisely to the root zone, reduces the transmission of pathogens, and produces fewer weeds.
- Drip irrigation systems facilitate water management in fields that are difficult to irrigate due to variable soil structure or topography.
- Poplar wood productivity responds very sensitively to irrigation management. Recommended soil water tension at an 8-inch depth for irrigation onset for drip-irrigated poplar is 25 centibars (cb).
- "Soil water potential" is the negative of "soil water tension." A soil water potential of -20 cb is the same as a soil water tension of +20 cb. Also, cb is the same as kPa (kilopascals).
- Drip systems require careful design and maintenance.

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