

## Watering Systems

Easy access to running water is essential. This can be as simple as a single hose faucet located in a convenient spot. Teachers may prefer to teach watering methods by use of watering cans or hoses. This gives students experience on how much and how often to water to obtain healthy crops. Hand watering is difficult during weekends, holidays, and vacations. Automated systems assist the teachers by eliminating the drudgery of hand watering when students are not available.



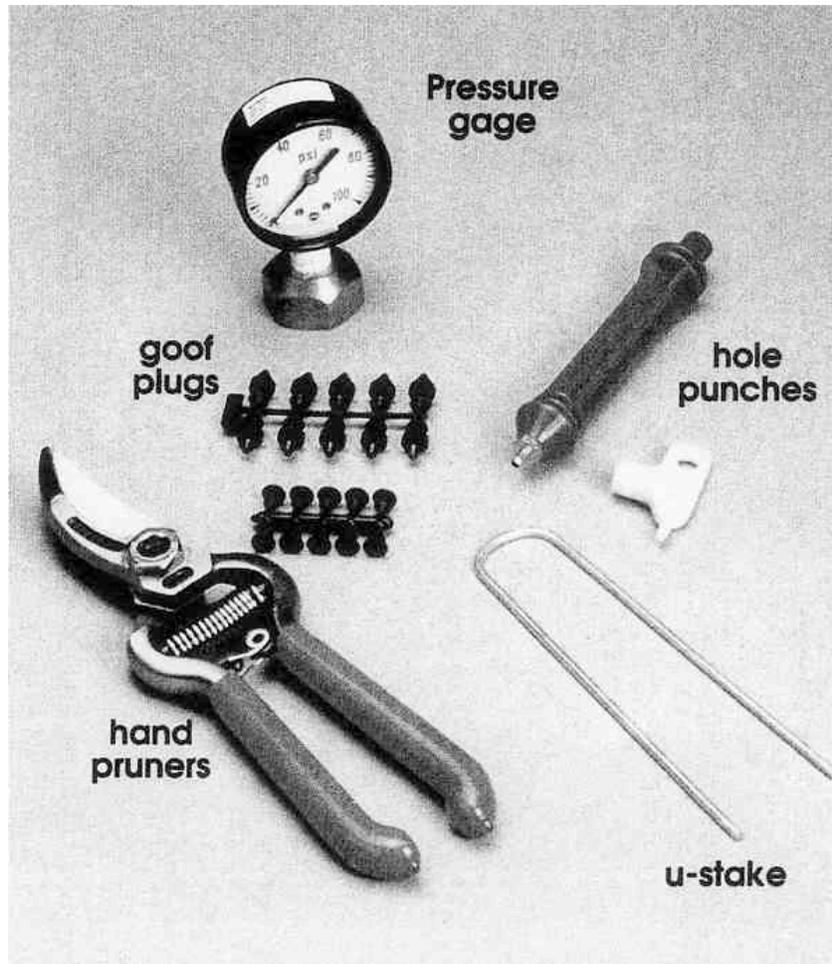
Examples of a variety of hand watering systems

Seed starting can be improved through an automatic system that turns on several times per day during the germination period. Investigate both sprinklers and drip systems. Sprinklers have the advantage of being more permanent, but will probably use more water. Drip irrigation will provide a more flexible system that can easily be removed from the planting beds and reinstalled to fit different types of planting designs. A drip system may also aid in teaching water conservation methods.



Example of a drip system

If an automated system is to be installed, consult with an irrigation specialist. Contact a parent volunteer knowledgeable in irrigation systems, or a local irrigation supply dealer to design and/or install a system. Free booklets describing irrigation system components are available from manufacturers and local retailers.



Useful tools for installing and maintaining a drip system