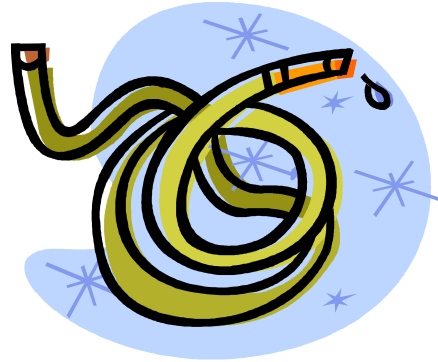


Soaker Hoses

Soaker hoses are wonderful tools to have in your yard – usually best in non-grass areas. One of the best benefits of soaker hoses is that the water drips near the roots and does not typically wet the stems or leaves of the plants. Wet stems and leaves tend to lead to various mold growths or rot or leaf spots and can end up killing your plants.



Another big benefit of soaker hoses is delivering the water directly to the roots of your plant – less water lost. Sprinkler systems unfortunately broadcast the water into the air for a ways, in an effort to reach a substantial area at one time. Between the wind carrying the water off to somewhere else, water running off into the gutters or other unintended areas, and the heat evaporating the water – you end up using more water with sprinklers than you do with soaker hoses. With soaker hoses, you can lay out the hose to only the area that needs watering instead of watering a large patch of ground for only a small needed area. Soaker hoses will coil nicely through container gardens to waste less water (and save you a lot of effort).

Hook up the soaker hose to a timer on the outside faucet, and you have less effort required to water and less water use required. (When manually turning on our soaker hose faucet, I have at times gotten busy and only remembered to turn off the water at a much later time than when I had intended.) When you're going to be travelling, a timer with soaker hoses is essential for ensuring that your plants do not die while you are away.

For other practical tips on using soaker hoses, read the Success With Soaker Hoses article from the Saving Water Partnership in Seattle:

<http://www.savingwater.org/docs/successwithsoakerhoses.pdf>

EHow.com also has useful tips on using soaker hoses:

http://www.ehow.com/how_2204109_use-soaker-hose.html

About The Author

Marie Rice is the founder and editor of PartOfTheWhole.com - wellness for body, mind, and spirit. She enjoys helping others reach their goals. When she's not online, Marie's spending time with her family, gardening, doing crafts, or **most likely** – reading a book!