Drip Irrigation in the Treasure Valley - 2013

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So, you've seen the drip systems in the area and they look good.

What is it that you need to consider before initiating a drip irrigation project?

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AnyBody noticed the Shiny Stuff in the onion fields throughout the Valley ???

- The Sand Media's are the most outstanding and visible feature of drip systems.
- Other equally essential components are positioned throughout the entire field, though rarely noticed.

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First, a little on the progress of Drip Irrigation adoption in the Valley.

In 2000, less than 2% of the onion crop was grown with drip

For 2013, over 50% of the onion crop was grown under drip

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So……. Just how does Drip Irrigation fit into the picture?

- Surely, there are both positive and negative aspects of drip irrigation that need to be considered before initiating a system.

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What makes Drip Irrigation Attractive ?

- Drip offers enhanced yield and quality possibilities.
- Drip can reduce input costs.
  - Energy costs
  - Fertilizer
- Drip increases water utility and efficiency.
- More acres of higher value crops can be grown.
- Drip can increase land utility while reducing erosion.
- With Moisture Monitoring, Storageablity is enhanced.
- Drip can increase the profit margin for the Grower.

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Here are the some potential limitations of Drip

- This technology does come with a high initial investment cost and a modest recurring cost.
- The learning curve is steep with this type of irrigation system compared to other systems.
- Additional novel equipment is required to make the conversion to drip irrigation.
- Identification of a good source for drip irrigation design and service is a critical component to success.
- Tape recycling, in annual systems, is burdensome.

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More Advantages of Drip

- Increased Crop Vigor is often noted,
  - Reduced weed problems from more timely herbicide applications made possible by drip irrigation
  - Reduced sprayer trips by utilizing the drip system for insecticide applications have been noted
  - Reduced disease problems are normally associated with drip irrigated fields
  - Reduced reliance on fumigation can be possible
  - Less Soil Compaction is usually noted.

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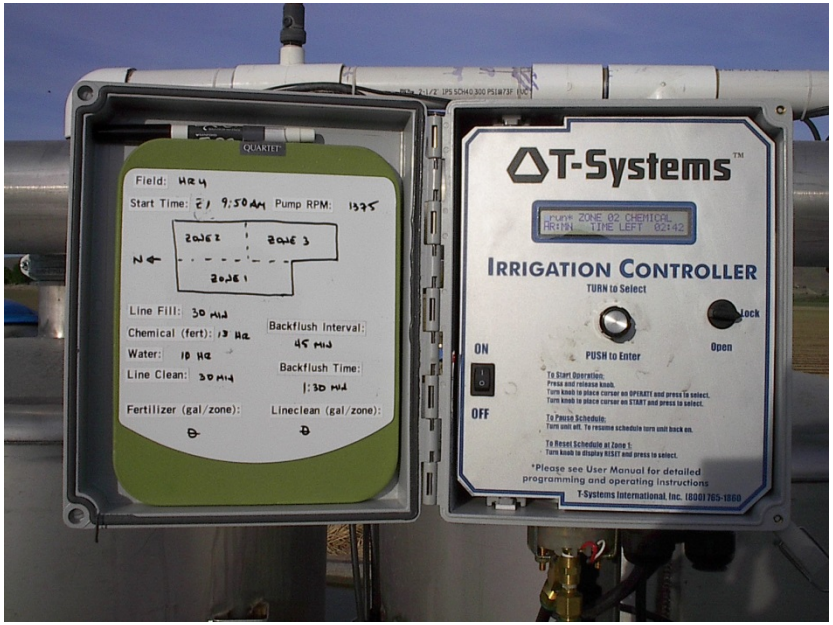
Additional Advantages of Drip



- Lower per unit cost gains are realized.
- Lower fertilizer inputs are expected in most crop applications.
- Opportunities to inject systemic insecticides allow for minimum impact on the crop.

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So, this all well and good, but …….

- What are the economic impacts that drip irrigation can be made on various crops that are grown with drip?
- Incidentally, over a dozen crops have been grown in the Treasure Valley utilizing drip.

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Exactly, what crops have been grown on drip in the Valley?

- Onions
- SugarBeets
- Field Corn
- Carrot Seed
- Apples
- Onion Seed
- Peppers
- Dry Beans
- Watermelon
- Inbred corn varieties
- Blueberries
- Wine Grapes
- Table Grapes
- Alfalfa Seed
- Potatoes
- Hops
- Sweet Corn Seed
- Wheat
- PepperMint
- Road-side stand veggies

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Drip Irrigation is a Viable Option

- Drip offers enhanced yield and quality possibilities
- Drip can reduce input costs
  - Energy costs
  - Fertilizer
- Drip increases water utility and efficiency
- Drip can increase the profit margin for growers.

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Questions ?????

Thank You

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The Path to Progress

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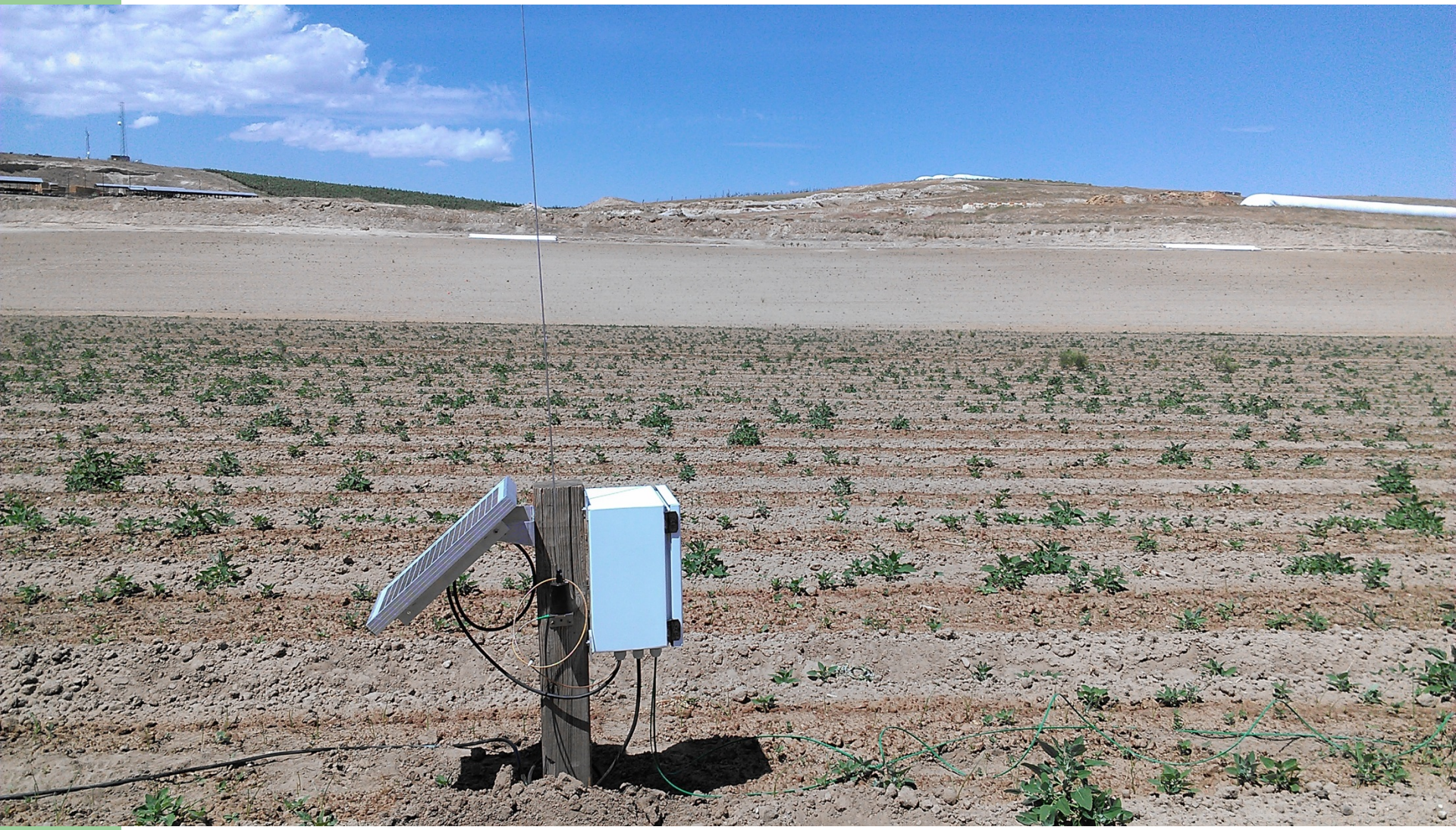
Josh Rubel

- Hartman Farms
- Parma
- Drip in onions and carrot seed
- Over 10 years of experience with drip
- Progressive Moisture Monitor program



Dell Winegar

- Winegar Farms
- Fruitland
- Drip in many crops
- Over 10 years of drip experience

Bob McKellip

- Bob McKellip Farms
- Nampa
- Multi-Year Drip
- Second full season
- Multiple Crops