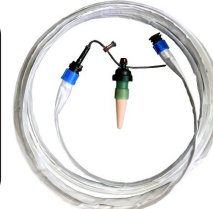# BluSoak 2.0
Instruction Guide for Kits

System Installation with Blumats

1. Place the Blusoak 2.0 on the soil medium. Manifold systems will use straight rows, but for all other systems we recommend a spiral shape. Evenly spread out the drip tape on the top of your growing medium.

2. Install Blumat sensors in a place with similar moisutre content to the rest of your growing area. You can use either one or two Blumat sensors per length of BluSoak 2.0. If using only one Blumat sensor, plug the other end of the tape with a BluSoak End Plug or you can tie a knot. Make sure to add a Distribution Dripper after each sensor if the Blusoak isn't close enough to the Blumat, otherwise your beds may get too wet before the sensor shuts off.

3. Use stakes to keep the BluSoak in place (*optional*). A moisture meter is optional but extremely helpful in monitoring and setting up your system. With living soils, it's best to stay between 80-120 mBar but this differs depending on the media used, growing style, and type of plant or strain.

4. Make sure the soaker hose or distribution dripper is 4" or less away from sensor. The further away, the more moist your planting mix will stay; the closer, the drier. Make sure to monitor how wet your bed is and adjust accordingly.

5. Connect the BluSoak 2.0 soaker hose to a Blumat sensor by using a *BluSoak Fitting to 3mm Adapter* (product number IG16085). You can use teflon tape to prevent leaks at the fittings (*optional*). To attach the BluSoak 2.0 to the fittings follow the instructions in the diagram to the right, or follow the QR code at the left to watch the video.
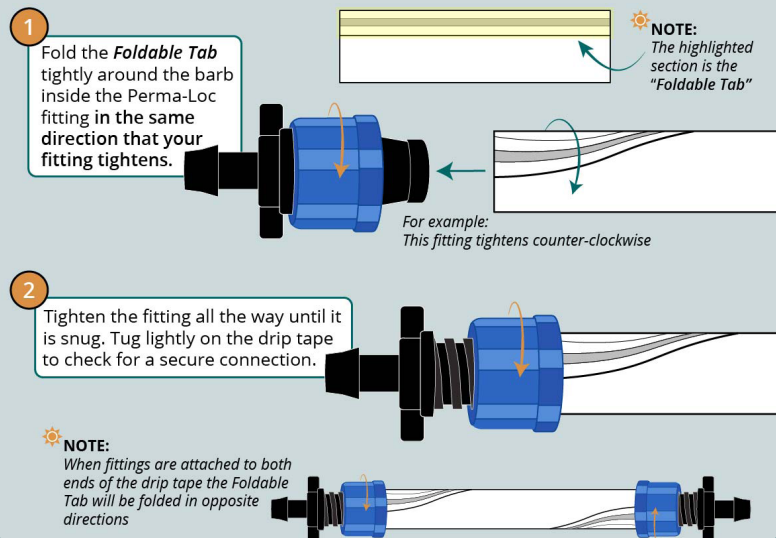
BluSoak 2.0 Setup Tips

✦ If using Blumats in your BluSoak 2.0 irrigation system, make sure you set up your system when the soil moisture is at the level you want to keep constant. If you adjust when it's too dry, it will stay too dry; if too wet, it will stay too wet. The ideal way is to use a digital moisture meter and adjust when soil moisture content is just right (normally between 80-120 mbar).

✦ Make sure the ends of your Blusoak 2.0 are cut straight across and not at an angle.

✦ In a gravity system, make sure you have at least 2 psi. This means the lowest water level in the reservoir is at least 4' above soil if close to growing area. Raise reservoir an additional foot for every 10 horizontal feet the water must travel.

✦ Make sure the bed is flat or has a maximum 5% slope away from the beginning of the system.

✦ Mulch around the BluSoak 2.0 for increased water efficiency and microbial activity.

Attaching Fittings to BluSoak 2.0

1. Fold the *Foldable Tab* tightly around the barb inside the Perma-Loc fitting **in the same direction that your fitting tightens.**

NOTE: The highlighted section is the "Foldable Tab"

For example: This fitting tightens counter-clockwise

2. Tighten the fitting all the way until it is snug. Tug lightly on the drip tape to check for a secure connection.

NOTE: When fittings are attached to both ends of the drip tape the Foldable Tab will be folded in opposite directions

Pressure and Pressure Reducers

BluSoak 2.0 can split at 8-10 psi, but it is best to not use with pressures over 6psi. Use the 15 psi Blumat Pressure Reducer in Blumat systems (*IG14606*). The Blumat sensors act as flow restrictors, and when combined with this pressure reducer you will acheive the optimal pressure for your Blumat system.

BluSoak Manometer

These manometers let you easily know if you have enough pressure in gravity systems (this product is not needed in pressurized systems). They are installed at the end of a loop or row. Water should go up 4'-5' in the clear tube when the carrots are all the way open.

FAQs

How can such low pressure and such a low water flow go so far and water so much?

It's the power of time. Like investment charts that show how compounding a small interest rate over time can produce a huge return, a very small flow of water at low pressure over a long period of time can water a surprisingly large area.

How much water will the BluSoak 2.0 soaker hose use?

Maximum flow rate at 2 psi is 0.047 gallons per foot per minute. Maximum flow rate at 5 psi is 0.074 gallons per foot per minute. These systems generally use less water than the maximum flow rate. Put mulch on top to decrease evaporation and increase water retention.
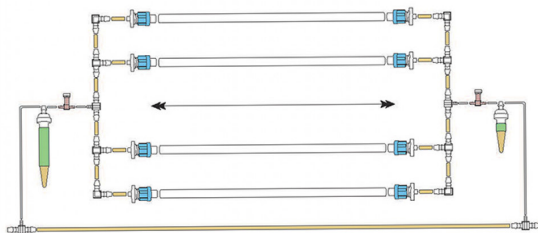
Is it okay to bury this soaker hose?

Yes, it actually works better if buried. Being buried prevents UV from making the tubing crack and split. If buried deep enough, it can last many years. Burying it also lets you plough or rototill over it in the spring. Depending on soil type, bury between 4-18".

What is the difference between one and two Blumat Carrots in an BluSoak 2.0 system?

You can sufficiently water up to a 4'x10' growing area using one Blumat carrot and BluSoak 2.0. It is possible to go longer, but the bed needs to be very level. Using two carrots (one on each end of the BluSoak) will make your system more sensitive and precise, which is ideal for maintaining a more narrow soil moisture range; you can adequately irrigate up to 4'x24'.

A Double Manifold Kit uses two carrots that are feeding two headers that supply water in straight rows of BluSoak. The manifold is the best method of maintaining constant pressure throughout the system, especially on a larger scale.
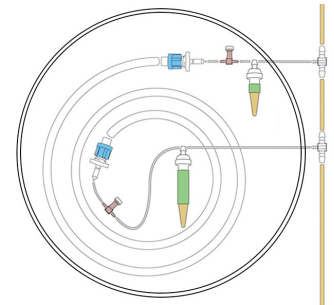
What is the best pressure to use?

The minimum pressure for above surface irrigation is about 2 psi. If the pressure is over 8 psi, the drip tube can split. So if using gravity, you'll need the water level at about 5' above the soil, raising it an additional foot for every 10 horizontal feet that the water travels from the reservoir to your irrigation system.

Can you use BluSoak in Large Fabric Pots?

BluSoak 2.0 also works in large fabric pots and does a great job in making sure you are maximizing the amount of potting mix being watered. BluSoak is an economical irrigation solution for larger pots because it requires fewer Tropf Blumat Sensors compared to distribution dripper systems. 30 gallons is the smallest size we recommend for BluSoak systems.

Are you in need of Fabric Raised beds or Fabric Pots? We source ours from Grassroots Fabric Pots. They are designed specifically for living soil systems and are made in the USA!

Need Help or Have Questions? Contact us!
info@sustainablevillage.com
303.998.1323
www.sustainablevillage.com