

What things should I consider before I purchase a SDI system?

1. Educate yourself before contacting a service provider by
 - a. Seeking out university and other educational resources. Good places to start are the K-State SDI website at www.ksre.ksu.edu/sdi and Google the terms microirrigation and drip irrigation. Read the literature or websites of companies as well.
 - b. Review minimum recommended design components as recommended by K-State (see www.ksre.ksu.edu/sdi/Reports/2003/mf2576.pdf)
 - c. Visit other producer sites that have installed and used SDI. Most current producers are willing to show them to others.

2. Interview at least two companies.
 - a. Ask them for references, credentials (training and experience) and sites (including the names of contacts or references) of other completed systems.
 - b. Ask questions about design and operation details. Pay particular attention if the minimum SDI system components are not met. If not, ask why? System longevity is a critical factor for economical use of SDI.
 - c. Ask companies to clearly define their role and responsibility in designing, installing and servicing the system. Determine what guarantees are provided.

3. Obtain an independent review of the design by an individual that is not associated with sales. This adds cost but should be minor compared to the total cost of a large SDI system.

SDI can be a viable irrigation system option, but should be carefully considered.

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