Flood irrigation is water that is pumped or brought to the fields and is allowed to flow along the ground among the crops or fields. This method is simple and cheap, and is widely used by societies in less developed parts of the world as well as in the United States. Farmers can capture the runoff in ponds and pump it back up to the front of the field where it is reused for the next cycle of irrigation.

Landscaping
Sprinklers are a vital part of landscaping for homes, parks, golf courses and businesses. Instead of growing food, desired crops are flowers, trees, and grass. A good sprinkler system helps conserve water and produces beautiful landscapes and scenery.

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Wheel Lines
Wheel Lines come in 40-foot sections and can be assembled into whatever length a farmer needs to cover. They are normally propelled by a motor/mover in the middle of the line that rolls the wheel line across the field, usually 50 feet to 60 feet per move. Crops are limited because of the short height of the pipe.

Drip Irrigation
For irrigating fruits and vegetables this method is much more efficient than flood irrigation. Water is sent through plastic tubes (with holes in them) that are either laid along the rows of crops or even buried along their rootlines. Evaporation is cut way down, and 40 percent of the water used is saved, as compared to flood irrigation. The photo at the left shows a field being irrigated by drip irrigation. The right side of the picture is after 24 hours and the left side is after 12 hours.

Center Pivots
The center-pivot systems have a number of metal frames (on rolling wheels) that hold the water tube out into the fields. There can be a very big water gun at the end of the tube. Electric motors move each frame in a big circle around the field (the tube is fixed at the water source at the center of the circle), squirting water.

Siphon Tube Irrigation
Siphon tubes are a basic implement used in irrigation to transfer water over a barrier (such as the bank of a raised irrigation canal), using the siphon principle. At the simplest, they consist of a pipe with no working parts. To work they rely on the water level in the canal being at a higher level than the water level in the field being irrigated. Like any siphon they must be primed (that is, filled with water) before they will start reliably transferring water. Once primed and positioned correctly, they will continue transferring water from the source to the destination.

This flyer is provided by the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Association. Some text provided by The U.S. Geological Survey, USDA NASS. For a Power Point presentation go to: www.idahoirrigationequipmentassociation.org