Tanker Irrigation is a scientifically proven sub soil irrigation system specially designed for use in planters and enclosed planting beds. It was invented more than 30 years ago by Livingreen Design Technical Director, Dorian Hope, and has remained in production ever since and with various updates, keeping it at the forefront of irrigation technology.

The system essentially comprises an underground water tank that is located approx. 10cm from the plant rootball when installed. The tank is fed via a tube from soil level through which water is introduced via a hose or watering can.

The clever bit is the Tanker proprietary wick, a geotextile membrane designed specifically for the system and which is used to slow release water from the tank into the compost only replacing water lost to the roots. This means the soil is always kept at ‘field capacity’ and does not subject the plant to the cycle of over watering and drought that is usually the lot of plants confined to pot culture.

The result is happier, healthier plants that show a more compact growth pattern, have a longer life and better root and shoot development. Used outdoors, flowering plants will flower for longer and will produce more flowers.
DESIGNED FOR PLANTERS

Today’s Tanker comprises 3 different systems

**Water Cell:** Round tanks from 2 – 12 litre capacity used for planters typically up to 80cm.

**Modular:** thin profile long tanks suitable for trough or barrier planters or shallow planting beds

**Cylinder:** larger bore long tanks for tree planters and deeper large scale planting beds

Both Modular and Cylinder systems can be specified as ‘Network’ whereby the tanks can be linked together in series to irrigate very large planting beds and larger tree planters.

All fittings used are click fit with no complicated seals or O rings necessary – simply cut the linking pipe to size and click onto the tank connector.

The downpipes feature the FreeFlow cap which, for interior use can be specified with your company logo in a resin encapsulation. This provides free advertising as well as a non-tamper filling device that allow water to be poured straight through special vanes in the lid. A floating water level indicator rod in the downpipe lets the watering technicians know when the tanks are empty and can be safely refilled.

In 2004, the system was given to the professor at the Reading University Horticulture Technology unit to be the subject of a 6 month trial and to our knowledge is the only system on the market that has been subject to independent testing. The results were outstanding, proving that Tanker offered massive benefits to the health and appearance of both interior and exterior grown pot plants as previously described but also elongating the period required between watering visits by at least 100%.

For interior plants this allows like for like comparison with hydro-culture without its drawbacks. For exterior this means planters and hanging baskets can be watered only half as often while achieving better results. For the cost of the system the advantages make Tanker the best value product on the market and explain why it is the choice of many of Europe’s top landscape contractors.

After 70 days the plant grown using tanker (above) is clearly fuller, a more compact shape and features more flowers than the control (left).