

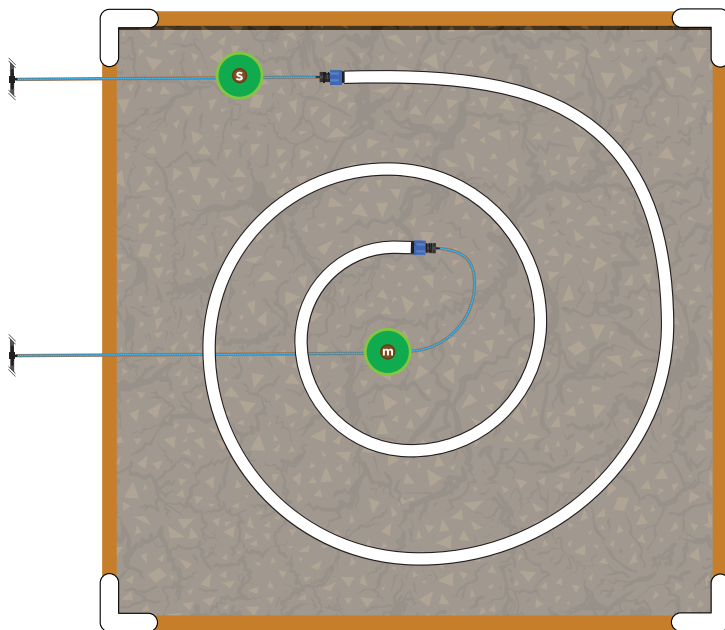
# BluSoak

## Easy set up guide

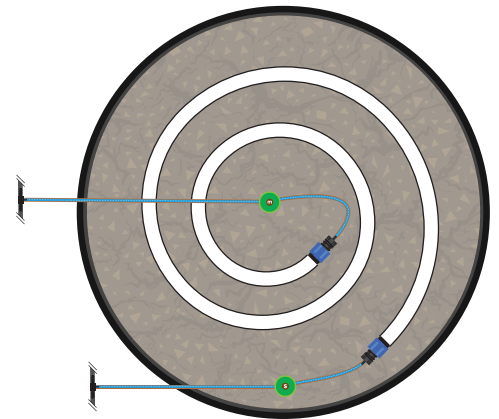


### BLUSOAK POT KITS & BLUSOAK BED KITS

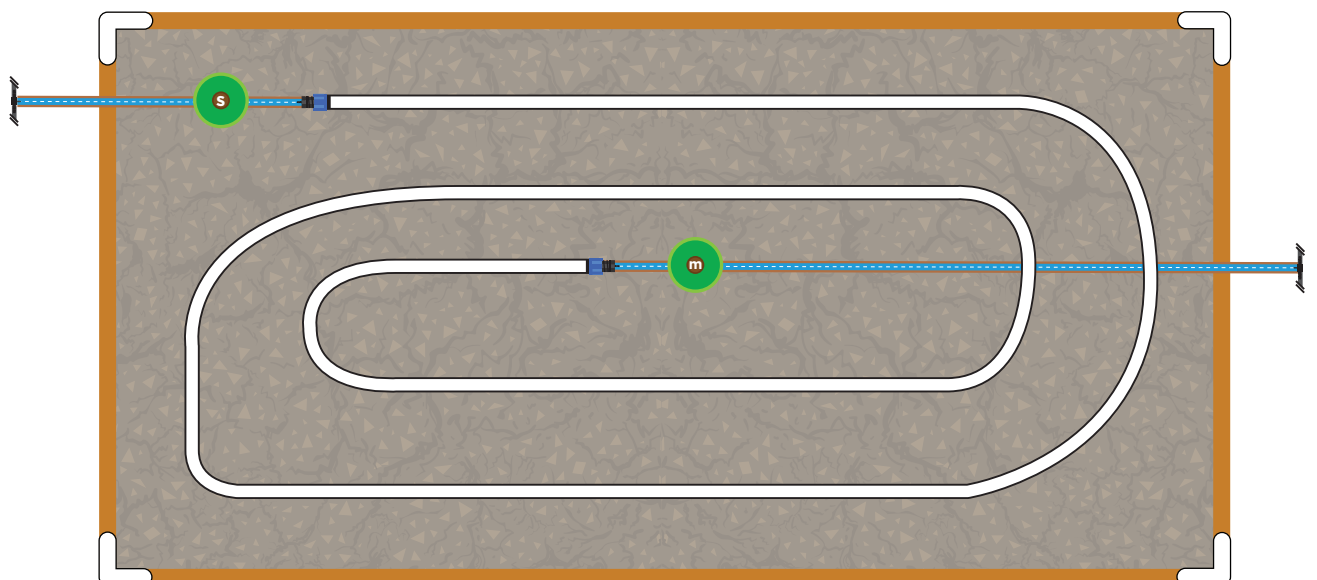
3 x 3ft Bed Kit



170-250L Pot Kit



4 x 8ft Bed Kit



# **BluSoak** **COMPONENTS**

**TROPF BLUMAT  
SENSOR**



**BLUSOAK  
DRIP TAPE**



**TROPF BLUMAT  
MAXI SENSOR**



**BLUSOAK TO BLUMAT  
3MM ADAPTOR**



**BLUSOAK  
PEG**



**BLUMAT DIGITAL  
MOISTURE METER**



**\*recommended  
(not essential)**

# PREPARE YOUR SOIL

...by getting it to the optimum moisture level.

Apply water in small amounts with a watering can and a fine distribution rose until your desired moisture level is reached. We suggest using the [Blumat Digital Moisture Meter](#) to get your soil into the optimum range, 100-150 millibar is a good starting point for organic living soil.



**ORGANIC LIVING SOIL**  
**IDEAL STARTING MOISTURE:**

**100-150**  
**millibar**

If you do not have a [Blumat Digital Moisture Meter](#) and are unsure what the optimum moisture level is for your soil, you can slowly water the soil until a small amount of run-off is achieved. This will get the soil to full saturation. **Ecothrive** and **Indoor Organics Eco-Life Soil** is often at optimum moisture content fresh out the box, requiring no watering initially!

# SOAKING THE SENSORS

## ...soaking the Tropf Blumat Sensors.

Unscrew the green cap on the sensor and completely submerge the tube and cap in water. If time allows, use water that has been boiled and left to cool. This process drives oxygen out of the water so no air bubbles will form inside the tube.



**IMPORTANT:**  
**SOAKING PREVENTS AIR BUBBLES IN THE TUBE**

Allow the tube and cap to soak for a minimum of 15 minutes. After soaking, using a pipette or syringe, squirt water into the 3 holes under the cap while underwater, this pushes air out of the cap. Now you can screw the cap onto the tube while underwater, so they are completely full of water with no air. Once you have secured the cap and are confident there is no remaining air in the sensor, leave it underwater for a further 15 minutes.

# INSERT THE SENSORS

Insert the **Blumat Sensors** into the soil, pushing the sensor firmly down. If using a sensor without any drippers attached, ensure the drip tube is not touching the soil. If using multiple sensors, leave **at least 20cm between them** when in their final position.



**INSERT**



**PUSH DOWN**

Insert the **small Blumat Sensor** off to the side. If using the **Maxi Sensors**, position them closer to the centre.



Attach the **Blusoak to Blumat 3mm Adaptors** at the end of the **Blusoak Drip tape**. Feed the black plastic inner support into the fitting, slide the tape over the barbs, then twist the locking nut. Tug the tape to make sure it's held in place firmly. **Do not attach to the Blumat sensors yet.**

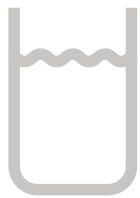
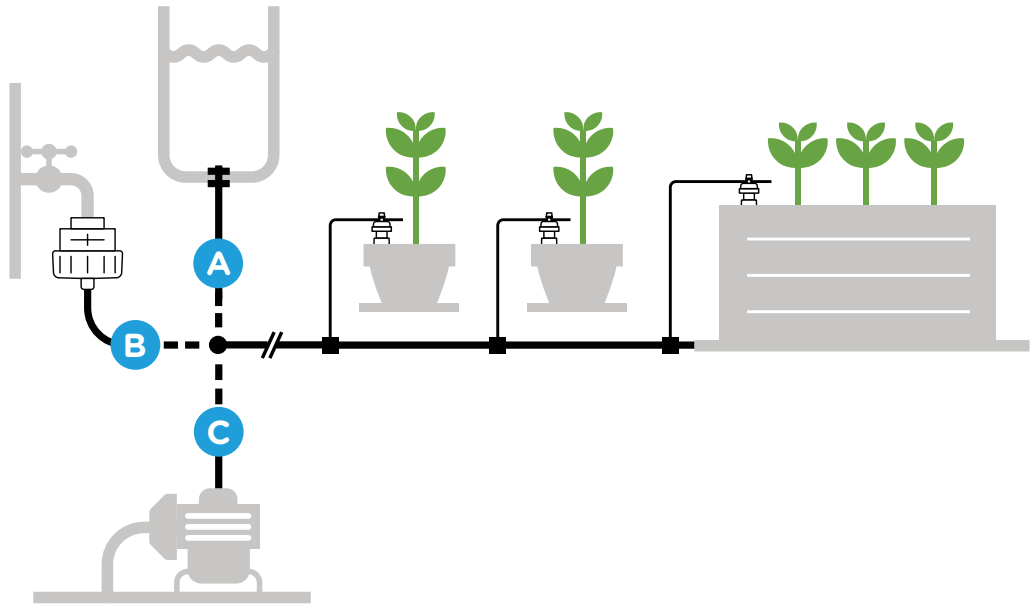
Position the **Blumat Sensors** and layout the **Blusoak Drip Tape** according to the diagram on page 1.





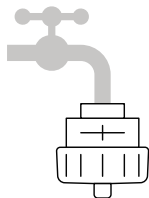
# WATER CONNECTION

Connect your **Blumat Sensors** to the water supply line making sure to not get any tiny soil particles in the line. Contaminants are the biggest issue facing **Blumats**, keeping your irrigation lines clear and only using water to irrigate will ensure the longest life and most efficient watering. Make sure all lines are securely fitted.



A

**TANK:** Supplying water with a gravity-fed reservoir is simple and flexible. The shape and size of the tank does not matter, just make sure the tank is higher than the plants and it holds enough water to not run out between re-filling. A good rule to follow for Blusoak systems is; **position the tank 1.5m higher than the Blumat Sensors, this will be sufficient for up to 10m of Blusoak.** For larger set-ups, you should use a pump system.



B

**TAP:** Use a **Blumat Pressure Reducer** screwed onto a tap for use outdoors. This connection method is not recommended for use indoors.



C

**PUMP:** With a pump system you can draw water from a lower-lying tank. Pump systems are recommended for larger **Blumat** set-ups and **Blusoak Drip Tape**. Constant pressure must be maintained using a pump with a pressure vessel. Complete **Blumat** Pump Systems can be purchased from **Ecotrive**.

## DIALING IN BLUMAT SENSORS

On top of the green cap is the brown adjustment screw, this is used to control the flow of water through the sensor, which will allow the soil to be wetter or drier.



Before attaching the **Blusoak Drip Tape** to the **Blumat Sensors** you need to dial in the sensor. This can be done by turning the brown adjustment screw anti-clockwise until water flows freely. Slowly turn the adjustment screw clockwise until a single drop of water hangs from the drip tube. If the drop is still hanging after 10 seconds then attach the line to the **Blusoak Adaptor**.

If you used the **Blumat Digital Moisture Meter** at the start to get your soil to the correct moisture, no further adjustments to the **Blumat Sensor** are needed. If you watered the soil to saturation before inserting the **Blumat Sensors**, turn the adjustment screw clockwise a quarter turn, allowing 2 triangles on the brown screw to pass. Doing this will set the sensor to start dripping once the soil has had the chance to dry slightly, so the dripper will not maintain a fully saturated soil.

**Repeat the setup for all other **Blumat Sensors** you have installed.**

## ENSURE EVEN SPACING

Try to evenly place the **Blusoak** Drip Tape on the bed. Use the black pegs provided to hold the drip tape in place. **Aim to have the drip tape no closer than 8cm to the Blumat Sensors.** If the tape is too close, it will turn the sensors off too quickly.

### PLEASE NOTE:

If you want to test the system to make sure the **Blusoak** is set up and working correctly, turn the adjustments screw fully open. Allow the **Blusoak** to inflate, quickly make your checks, then turn the adjustment screw closed. You will now have to re-calibrate the **Blumat Sensor** by detaching the 3mm drip tube and holding the hanging drop.



## TOP TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION

### Moisture Adjustment

If making adjustments via the brown screw to dial in the soil moisture content, we advise only making small adjustments to avoid saturating or drying out your soil. You will notice on the brown screw there are small triangles, a small adjustment is turning half or one triangle back or forward and leaving for 24 hours until you are happy with the soil moisture.



Further reading on the **Blumat®** & **Ecothrive** range of products, visit [www.ecothrive.co.uk](http://www.ecothrive.co.uk)