

Monitor for Mechanical Damage

Drip tape and polyethylene laterals are also susceptible to mechanical damage from a number of sources, including installation equipment, tillage equipment, insects, birds, rodents, excessive pressure or the lens effect of sunlight when magnified through water beneath clear plastic mulch. Tape injection equipment should be routinely inspected, and the drip system should be inspected for evidence of mechanical damage, indicated by puddles of water, squirting, loss of pressure or crop loss. When such damage occurs, pests must be controlled or managed — or equipment adjustments should be made — to avoid future problems. The following pictures illustrate the various types of mechanical damage that can occur. Note that sunlight damage from the lens effect is uncommon in SDI applications since the tubing is buried and is not subject to magnification of sunlight under clear mulch. However, SDI systems are especially susceptible to rodent damage since populations are no longer controlled with the previous irrigation or cultural practices.

Examples of Mechanical and Other Damage



Bird Damage



Equipment Damage



Equipment Damage



Excessive Pressure



Insect Damage



Insect Damage



Insect Damage



Lens Effect Damage



Rodent Damage



Rodent Damage



Rodent Damage



Rodent Damage