

Keep Lawn Green; Install Your Sprinkler System

A well-groomed lawn deserves a sprinkler system that will distribute the right amount of water when and where it is needed. It is possible to do this yourself, with the aid of directions in the 1970 edition of the Ortho Lawn and Garden Book.

Here are the essentials: Begin planning your system with graph paper (10 grids to the inch is fine), a soft-lead pencil, a dime-store compass and a measuring tape. With these you can sketch a plan of your sprinkler system, one that should actually be a bird's eye view of your property, drawn to a scale of about one inch to 10 feet.

It should show all construction and landscape features that could affect the installation and operation of the sprinkler system.

Some examples of what to show on your plan: property lines, fences, walls, outdoor lights, buried drainage and electrical lines, location of trees, plants, and shrubs on your property, paved areas, and location of existing water-supply lines.

YOU SHOULD also show areas of high and low ground, and direction of slope of your land, as these will affect the flow of water once it has been applied by your sprinkler system.

Wind direction and the location of any water-sensitive plants in your garden should also be shown.

Next, plan the plumbing in your system. You may choose copper, galvanized iron, or plastic piping and fittings. Pipe of polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC) is certainly worth considering. It has gained great popularity in recent years in gardening because of its durability, ease of handling, cut-

ting and assembly; low cost, and ease of repair.

PVC pipe can be joined together or to fittings (valves, elbows, adapters, and couplings) by simple "solvent welding" with a chemical, requiring no heat or elaborate equipment. PVC pipe is usually sold in 20-foot lengths, normally colored gray. Your system will probably use 4-inch and 3/4-inch diameter sizes.

ANGLE VALVES are used for shrubbery heads installed above ground level. For lawn sprinkler heads installed at ground level, anti-siphon valves are recommended (and usually required by local plumbing codes).

Angle valves are installed underground, while anti-siphon valves are placed a half-foot, or more above the ground. Typical valve sizes for garden use are 1/2-inch or 1 inch; matching the size of the main that will feed water to your system.

A wide variety of sprinkler heads is available. Most residential lawns and gardens can best be served by matched, adjustable, pop-up lawn sprinkler heads, and shrubbery heads with full-circle, half-circle, or quarter-circle spray patterns.

Each sprinkler head is designed to discharge a specific number of gallons per minute (GPM) over a given radius, and each head requires a certain pressure (usually stated in pounds per square inch, abbreviated psi) in order to achieve

maximum water-throwing efficiency.

In purchasing heads, remember that you can easily adjust a head so that it throws less than its maximum distance, but you can't make a head throw more than its maximum.

GO SLOWLY and thoroughly in planning the plumbing. Check on plumbing codes and building permits. Find out from your local water company the size of your water meter, the water pressure, and expected daily and seasonal fluctuations in pressure. Then visit your hardware dealer and your garden supply center to get advice on how to meet your requirements that are available commercially.

Plan the plumbing system, for your entire property, even though your immediate objective may be just a system for the front yard only.

Think now about running a sprinkler main to the back yard, or at least putting in a fitting from which a branch of your system could later be run to the back yard. If you do decide later to expand your system, this foresight will pay off.

After the plumbing is determined, it's time to start laying out the actual system.

ASSUME THAT you have decided to use pop-up sprinkler heads for open lawn areas, and that the heads you've chosen have a maximum coverage of

10 feet—that is, at maximum flow they can throw water so that it completely wets a circular area whose radius is 10 feet.

Now set your compass to a 10-foot radius. If you are using a scale of one inch equals 10 feet, then the points of your compass will be one inch apart. Lightly draw in quarter-circles wherever a 90-degree angle is shown within the area to be sprinkled.

Next, draw in half-circles as needed adjacent to building, paved areas, and property

lines. Finally, fill in central lawn areas with full circles.

In this way, experiment with various full-circle and partial-circle combinations and spacing patterns until coverage is complete, with no potential dry spots.

You'll come up with the best design if you remember these points: (1) Overlap the outer one-third of each sprinkler's spray radius with that of the spray radius of the adjacent

sprinkler. (2) Cut back the radius of your circles to accommodate design and property lines, but never attempt to stretch the radius. (3) Design your system so that the water is sprayed from the outside perimeter of your property inward toward the center.

For more information, ask your local garden supply dealer for a copy of the 1970 Ortho Lawn and Garden Book.

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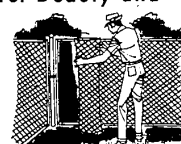
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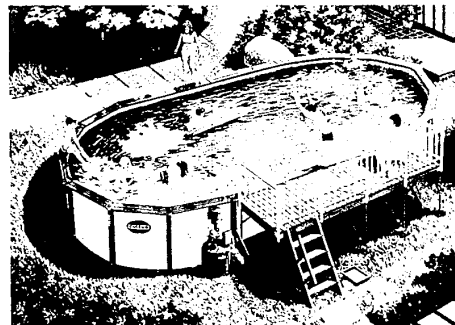
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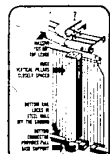
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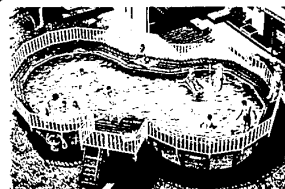
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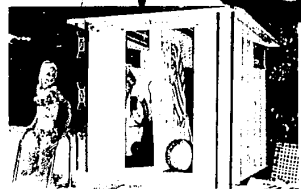


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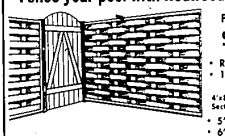


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