

How To Care for Your House

“Every project has challenges, and every project has its rewards.” Stephen Schwartz

I hope everyone is well and you are planning your summer projects. I want to share my thoughts on the sprinkler system that I had originally installed and how I have modified it over the years.

Our property measures 55' X 175', and believe it or not, I only have a very small area of grass (10' X 20'), located in the front of our house. The remainder of the gardening area are beds of annuals, perennials, a vegetable garden and a fish pond.

My objective was to have a maintenance free watering system. So, we installed a Sprinkler Irrigation System, dividing the property into 6 watering zones.

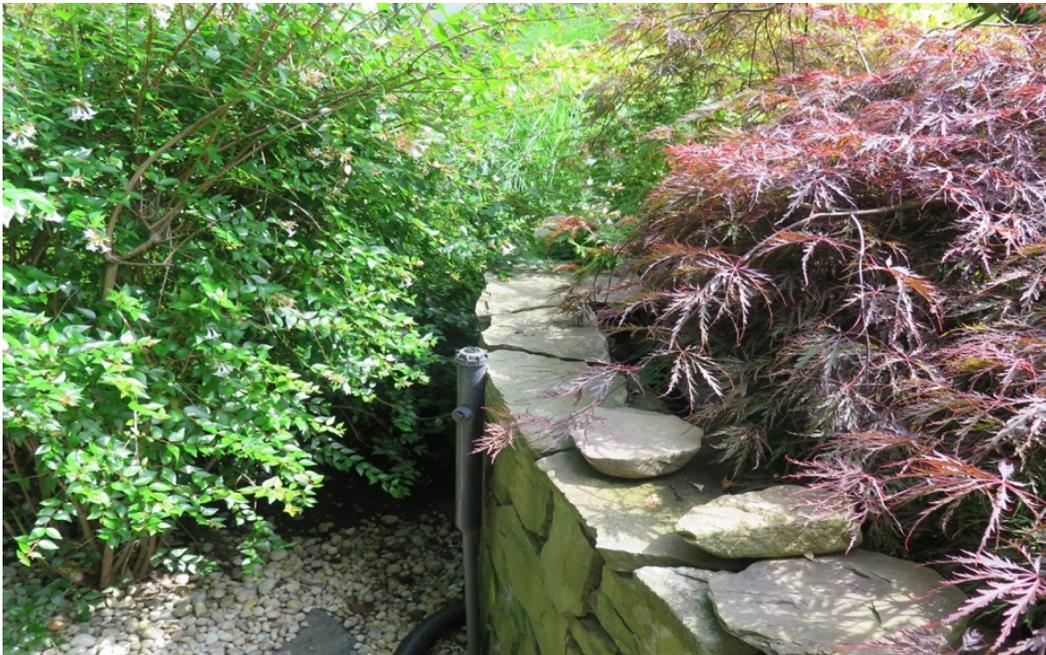


Photo 1: Overgrown plants preventing proper irrigation.

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For the first two years it worked great. As you can see from the picture, with good fertilization, mulching and some good luck, everything really grew. I had to add more watering time to maintain the coverage. This had its problems: cost of water and damage to the plant leaves.

Solution, we modified the sprayer system to a **Drip Irrigation System**. Please see the picture below. The irrigation tubing has holes every few inches (depending on the system purchased). So, instead of water being spread everywhere, water is now directed at the base of the plants, *where the roots are*.



Photo 2: The Drip Irrigation System

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Add a little mulch and away you go. Mulch keeps the moisture in the soil.



Photo 3: Mulch added on top of the Drip Irrigation System.

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The results have been terrific, the growth this season has been phenomenal. The length of my watering time has been reduced, guess what happened to my water bill?



Photo 4: Resulting growth after utilizing the Drip Irrigation System.



Photo 5: Plant growth around and above the Drip Irrigation System.