

Constructing Can Yards for Your Coastal Roots Seedlings



A can yard and automatic irrigation system will make it easier to water and maintain your Coastal Roots seedlings during their growing time at your school. The information needed to construct a can yard and install an integrated irrigation system is outlined below.

In order to successfully construct a can yard, you will need to select a site that ...

- can accommodate a 10' X 10' area
- receives full sunlight
- has good drainage (essential!)
- is close to your water source.

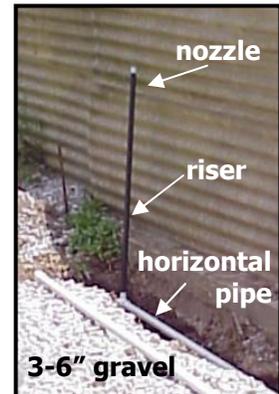
The steps to constructing a can yard are simple, but require a willing and able work force. Dress in work cloths because this is messy work.

These steps can be completed prior to the final construction phase:

- Obtain or sketch a plan before construction.
- Mark off the 4 corners of the yard (9.5' X 9.5').
- Kill or remove existing vegetation.

These steps are done the day the can yard and irrigation system is constructed:

- Grade the base surface of the yard so that it slopes at least 1% for surface drainage.
- Install the battery-powered irrigation solenoid into your water supply.
- Using flags or paint, measure and mark where irrigation risers will rise above ground.
- Mark lines from solenoid to last riser
- Dig horizontal pipe trenches at least 8-12 inches deep.
- Glue horizontal pipe and risers in place (Before covering with your gravel, test pipe for leaks 1 hour after glue dries).
- Add and level at least 3 to 6 inches of pea gravel or limestone rock.
*To calculate how many cubic feet of gravel to order: Multiply the length X width (in feet of your can yard) X depth (in feet of the rock layer).
Can you convert your cubic feet of gravel to cubic yards? Check below!*
- Cover the 10' x 10' area with a good quality groundcover cloth. Use metal pins (staples) to tack it down to the gravel.
- Turn water on for a couple of minutes to flush water lines of soil and debris from construction before attaching irrigation nozzles.
- Assemble irrigation nozzles and screw them onto the risers using Teflon tape. Don't over tighten!
- Nozzles can be pointed at 45°, 90°, 180° or 360°. Position irrigation nozzles to ensure good coverage.
- Program the solenoid irrigation timer according to the instructions. Specific instructions can be found the Coastal Roots website.
- Construct the 10' X 10' fencing provided by *Coastal Roots* according to instructions. You should have a six-inch border between the fence and the gravel along the entire perimeter.



ANSWER: To convert cubic feet to cubic yards
1 cubic yard = 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft = 27 cubic feet
Divide your cubic feet of gravel by 27 ft³/yard³