

ARTICLE XXVII: In- Ground Irrigation Systems

Purpose: It is the purpose of this bylaw to establish requirements for the installation of in-ground irrigation systems on residential properties for the protection of the quality and quantity of water supplied by the Sudbury Water District.

Applicability: All in-ground irrigation systems serving residential uses installed after the effective date of this bylaw will be required to comply with the following:

1. Installation of new in-ground irrigation systems and expansion of existing systems will be permitted only when the source of water supply is a private well owned and under the control of the property owner or a legally created organization of the owners of property using the well.
2. All wells installed for the purposes of this bylaw shall be subject to the regulations of the Sudbury Board of Health. All wells shall be tested for coli form bacteria and shall require treatment if such tests indicate the presence of coli form.
3. Installation and continued operation of such systems will be in accordance with the requirements herein:
 - (a) Private wells for irrigation purposes shall not be located within one hundred (100) feet of a sewage disposal system, within one hundred (100) feet of an existing potable water supply well and within one hundred (100) feet of a wetland or vernal pool. Lesser setbacks to sewage disposal systems may be approved by the Board of Health.
 - (b) All wells shall be dug or drilled to a minimum depth of 100 feet, unless it is demonstrated through hydro geological analysis that the cone of influence of the well at its maximum pumping capacity does not intercept any surface water resource.
 - (c) There will be no connection between the private water supply and the municipal water service. Separation using valves or removable sections of pipe is prohibited.
 - (d) Discharge of water from the private water supply will be through sub-surface sprinkler heads which rise when activated by water pressure. Water from this source will not be available through sill cocks, garden hoses or any other points.
 - (e) The purpose of the private water supply is limited to irrigation of lawn and plants, and is not to be used for washing automobiles, filling swimming pools or as a potable water supply.
4. Irrigation systems sourced by private water supplies and operated as described herein shall not be limited to specific hours of operation nor odd/even days of use if the Town declares a water emergency.
5. All irrigation systems shall utilize moisture sensors.
6. An Integrated Pest Management Plan shall be complied and submitted with an application to install an in-ground irrigation system. The plan shall encourage

minimal use of fertilizers and pesticides by use of non-chemical methods to control pests, such as by the use of indigenous species of plants.

7. Sellers of property covered by these regulations are responsible to inform the purchaser of these requirements in any purchase and sale agreement.
8. A permit to install a new in-ground irrigation system shall be required from the Board of Health and fees for review and inspection shall be established. All other state, federal or local approvals shall be required where necessary.

Exceptions: In-ground irrigation systems installed on land used primarily and directly for the raising of fruits, vegetables, berries, nuts and other foods for human consumption, feed for animals, flowers, trees, nursery or greenhouse products, and ornamental plants and shrubs; or on land to be used in a related manner which is incidental thereto and represents a customary and necessary use in raising such products.

These regulations were revised to include the following and shall be effective 4/4/06:

3. (a) Private wells for irrigation purposes shall not be located within one hundred (100) feet of a sewage disposal system, within one hundred (100) feet of an existing potable water supply well, and within one hundred (100) feet of a wetland or vernal pool. **Lesser setbacks to sewage disposal systems may be approved by the Board of Health.**

Approved Town Meeting: 4/4/06