

Home & Garden Mimeo # HG 306

How to Measure Your Yard

To apply the correct amount of fertilizer on your lawn, you need to know its surface area.

First, determine the total area of your property. Second, subtract the areas not to be fertilized. The remaining square footage is the number needed to determine how much fertilizer is needed. (See Figure 1)

Total lot: Lot, 125' x 100' = 12,500 sq. ft.

Subtract: House, 44' x 26' = 1,144 sq. ft.
Deck, 12' x 12' = 144 sq. ft.
Drive, 40' x 10' = 400 sq. ft.
Garden, 25' x 15' = 375 sq. ft.
Walk, 4' x 20' = 80 sq. ft.

Total to subtract = 2,143 sq. ft.

Remainder: Yard = 10,357 sq. ft.

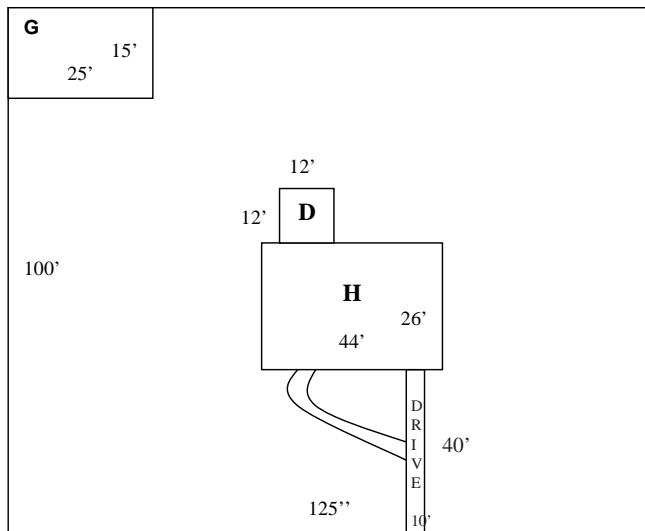


Figure 1.

How to determine the square footage of some familiar shapes

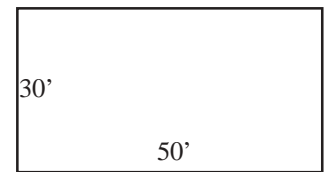
Squares, rectangles

Area = Length x width

Length = 50'

Width = 30'

Area: 50' x 30' = 1,500 sq. ft.



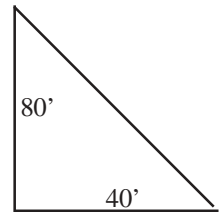
Triangles

Area = .5 x base x height

Base = 40'

Height = 80'

Area: .5 x 40' x 80' = 1,600 sq. ft.



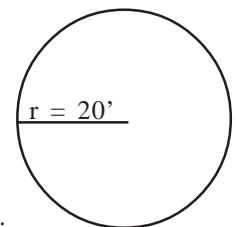
Circles

Area = $\text{D} \times r^2$

($\text{D} = 3.14$)

r (radius) = 20'

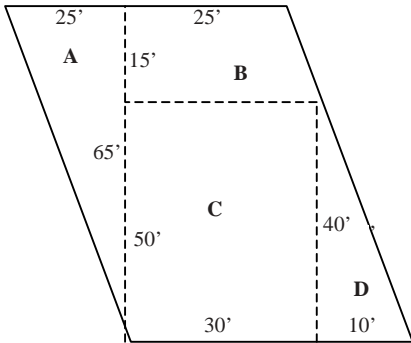
Area; $3.14 \times (20' \times 20') = 1,256$ sq. ft.



Irregular shapes

Divide area into smaller sections having familiar shapes (e.g. triangles A and D; rectangles B and C), then:

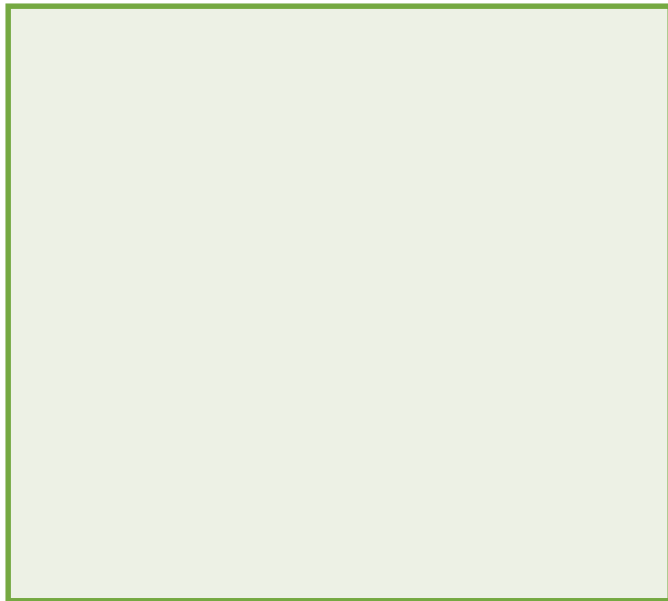
Area = Area A + Area B + Area C + Area D



- A: $.5 \times 25' \times 65' = 813$ sq. ft.
- B: $15' \times 25' = 375$ sq. ft.
- C: $50' \times 30' = 1,500$ sq. ft.
- D: $.5 \times 10' \times 40' = 200$ sq. ft.

Area: $813 + 375 + 1,500 + 200 = 2,888$ sq. ft.

Use the space below to draw your yard. Record the area in the box below.



Total lot:	_____
Subtract:	House _____
	Deck _____
	Drive _____
	Garden _____
	Walk _____
	Other _____
Total to subtract	_____
Remainder: Yard	_____

Have a home pest or garden question?
Call the Home and Garden Information Center
1-800-342-2507
<http://www.hgic.umd.edu>