

## Some facts you may never have known about garden hose

August is an appropriate month to think about garden hose. Periods of drought are likely to occur now, impelling you to get out hose and sprinkler to water your lawn and/or garden. How long it will take to apply the water the soil demands for healthy plant growth depends on inside hose diameter. That ought to be obvious. But just how long? Suppose you want to apply an inch of water on 5,000 square feet of lawn (an area 50 feet by 100 feet). Data from the Swan Rubber Company give surprising comparisons. Granted normal city water pressure, you would spend 11.4 hours applying an inch of water through a hose with a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch inside diameter. Through one with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch diameter, the time drops to 3.1 hours. For  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, the time is 5.2 hours. So, in buying a hose, remember that it's inside diameter that counts. Hoses with the same outside diameter can have different wall thicknesses—and therefore different inside diameters.

Traditionally, garden hose always has been round. But at least two manufacturers this year are offering hose that lies completely flat when empty but opens up round for full water flow. Swan and Colorite both point out that flatness makes the plastic hose easier to coil and store. It's available in 50-foot lengths in  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch diameter.