

## PROS AND CONS OF USING PLASTIC TILE

More plastic tile goes into the ground each year. If you're considering doing some tiling, you might want to take a closer look.

Cost is always a major consideration. Plastic tile is usually priced through a contractor. The prices quoted to **Successful Farming** in mid-October were: 4" diameter-12¢ per lineal foot; 5"-15¢; 6"-20½¢; 8"-42½¢; 10"-85¢; and 12'-\$1.25. These prices were for semi-load quantities and did not include costs of any fittings.

Quoted prices are generally in the ball park with the competitors up to about the 6" size. However, plastic tile is considerably lighter in weight than either concrete or clay--so handling and transportation costs may be offsetting. Also, installation has been simplified and you might gain some efficiencies here.

**The major disadvantage** of plastic drain tile is its reduced flow capacity when compared to similar sized concrete or clay tile. This is largely due to corrugations in the wall.

To qualify for REAP cost sharing, a drainage system must be planned according to SCS design standards. These design standards are available at all SCS and REAP offices to local engineers and contractors.

A point to remember: The flow rate capacity of the plastic tile must be reduced by a factor of 28% as compared to equal-sized concrete or clay tile, advises Richard Wenberg, Minnesota assistant state conservation engineer of the Soil Conservation Service. (Poorly aligned clay and concrete tile won't function at 100% capacity. Some drainage engineers use a reduced flow rate when figuring their capacity.) **Here's how the SCS figures it.** They simply increase the acreage to be drained by 28%, and then enter the tables in the normal manner. So if you are planning to drain 40 acres, this value would be increased by 28% ( $28\% \times 40 = 11$ ). So, 51 acres would be used as the design area.

Only certain dimensions of plastic tile qualify for REAP cost sharing and it must be purchased from a "Prequalified" supplier. If you plan to use larger size tile, check with your local SCS office for information on cost sharing.

**Successful Farming, January, 1972**

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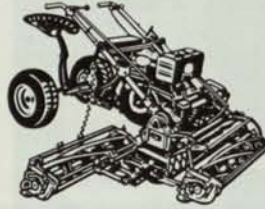
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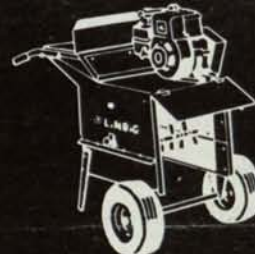
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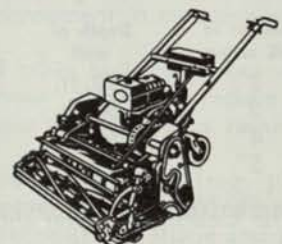
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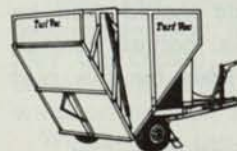
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