



The R60 Ditch Witch with vibratory plow attachment installs plastic pipe for underground sprinkler system without digging a trench. The procedure begins by digging a hole in the ground.

Underground Sprinkler System

KNIFED-IN



Pipe is attached to plow blade with cable pulling grip. The plow is then lowered into the hole and laying begins.

A SEATTLE, WASH., LANDSCAPING firm has found a way to speed the installation of underground sprinkler systems.

It used a Ditch Witch trencher with vibratory plow attachment to "pull" rigid plastic pipe into the ground without trenching.

The technique is particularly well-adapted to existing golf courses or other already-landscaped areas because there is little damage to the turf. Olympic Landscaping has installed five underground sprinkler systems on golf courses in the past year, although the company does any kind of landscaping work — both commercial and residential.

The latest golf course job was at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club, Port Angeles, Wash. The club already was in operation and, in fact, golfers continued to use the nine-hole course while the sprinkler system was being installed.

Olympic superintendents are Darwin Bean and Tom Opstad with Bean in charge of work at the Port Angeles course.

Olympic has a 60-horsepower R60

Ditch Witch Trencher, with vibratory plow attachment. He describes pulling pipe this way:

Holes to start the pull and for sprinkler heads are pre-bored with a post-hole auger. Pipe is then laid out in sections. It is pulled into the ground with the plow from hole to hole. Length of pulls depend on soil and terrain.

With the help of Bert Merritt and Jim Hutchinson, Ditch Witch dealers in Washington, Olympic modified the standard vibratory plow blade for the pulling operation.

Assembled pipe is attached to the blade with a pulling grip. The plow unit is started at pre-bored starting holes and lowered into the ground as the plow begins to move forward.

All that remains after a section of pipe is pulled in is to attach the sprinkler heads and fill in the small hole around them. Little restoration is required because no trench was made.

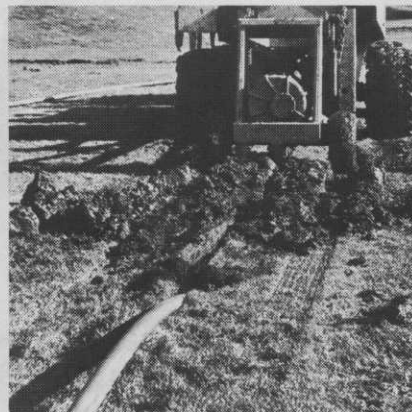
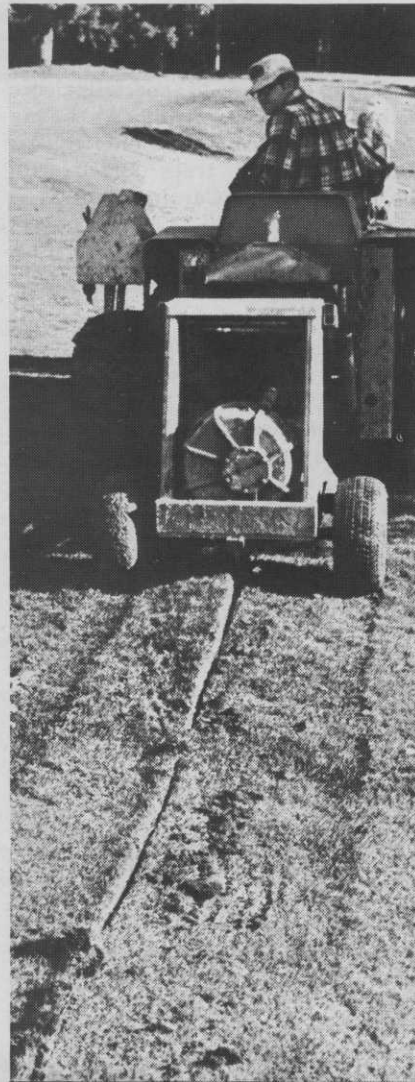
"There is no doubt that using the Ditch Witch and vibratory plow has greatly speeded our installation operation," said Bean. "We get the pipe in quicker and save many hours of restoration time. The method is particularly suited to the damp soil conditions we have in this area."

Olympic used the technique on the 18-hole Championship Olympia Brewery course, also.

The Peninsula Golf and Country Club job consisted of 32,000 feet of pipe ranging from half-inch to four-inches in diameter. Half-inch pipe was plowed in in 600-ft. lengths.

All pipe was installed with the plow except for 100 feet of four-inch pipe for which trench was dug.

Olympic owns the R60 trencher and plow and an M-Series Ditch Witch, a compact handlebar model. Ditch Witch equipment is manufactured by Charles Machines Works, Inc., Perry, Okla.



As Ditch Witch moves forward, pipe is pulled into starting hole and under surface of ground. Note lack of turf damage. Golfers continue to play during installation.