

Tips for Measuring Contours with a Bunyip

1. Calculate the Depth and Contour of your swale or the topography of your entire garden using the easy-to-make Bunyip (mythical Australian water monster) or water level. You will need:

- Two six foot (or more) lengths of 1" x 2" strips of pine wood.
- Mark lines on each of the strips, across one side in 1" intervals. Start with the 1" at the top and work your way down the stick.
- Purchase 40' of clear vinyl 5/8" diameter tubing .
- Zip tie the tubing in three places to the sides of the wood strips that have the markings on them.

2. Use A Funnel to get water into the tube or siphon water by submerging one end in a bucket and lowering the opposite end.

3. Remove Air Bubbles in the tubing before reading to get the most accurate level.

4. Keep Your Thumb On Top of the vinyl tubing when you are moving the sticks to keep the water from coming out.

6. Establish Zero Elevation as the point from which you will be calculating the difference in height of two points in the yard. Put a flag in this spot; all other measurements will be compared to this starting place.

7. Move B To Measure Height Difference and you can see that the water eventually levels out. The difference between the reading on B and the reading on A is the change in height between these two points.

8. Move A To Continue Mapping Slope or Topography of the yard. The last side to move always stays in place as you work your way around the yard. Each new measurement of the difference between the level marks on the sticks is added or subtracted to the previous measurement to determine the TOTAL CHANGE FROM ZERO.

(Step 1) $A - B = 0$ Move B.

(Step 2) $B - A = -8$ This point is 8 inches lower than the starting point. Move A.

(Step 3) $A - B = -10$ This point is 18 inches lower than the starting point. $0-8-10 = 18$

Make and Use a Bunyip



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You Will Need: 6' ruler, 5/8" clear vinyl tubing, zip ties

