

COASTAL HOME

where style meets seacoast living

Garden Evolution

A Rowley couple's garden unfolds room by room

5TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Maine's McLaughlin Garden and Homestead,
The Music Hall Kitchen Tour, a Massachusetts plant
collector's garden, and great grills for spring cookouts



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INTERVIEW BY KATIE CURTIS



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AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

Ask for references. Irrigation systems can cost from under \$1,000 to more than \$10,000, depending on the size of the property, if it is town or well water, and the type of water pressure the property has. Be sure the contractor is insured, and ask how long they've been in business.

ATION SYSTEM?

A rain sensor is the least expensive way to create an efficient timing system, and we recommend one for every system. There are smart controllers that base their timing schedules on the geography, season, and weather conditions. The system will apply the correct amount of water for plants or for lawn. You can ask your irrigation company to install one of these smart sensors.

'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

When we open up lines in the spring, we always check to see if water is falling onto a sidewalk or driveway and if all sprinklers are adjusted and properly aligned. It is important to make sure sprinklers that are supposed to turn are doing so. When homeowners try to open their systems themselves, they may forget to check for those things, causing water to puddle.

S TO FIX THEM?

When a homeowner notices heavy, wet areas, it may be a possible puncture in an irrigation line. Sprinkler heads that don't fit properly or are deteriorating, broken, or clogged are also common. If you see a brown spot on your property, what is causing it? Make sure all your zones are working properly. It could be electrical. These require calling a contractor to fix them.