



HOW TO CONSTRUCT A MALLARD NESTING CYLINDER

- The cylindrical-shaped nesting cylinder is constructed from a 7' X 28" section of 2x3 or 2x4 inch mesh, 14/16 gauge galvanized fencing. We have found that shorter versions (28" length) reduce structure wind loading problems.
- Holes are drilled in the tripod conduit legs at 4", 40", and 50" from one end ; the tripod is lashed together at the 4" distance, the cylinder is attached to the tripod legs at the 40" distance, and the flooring piece is attached at the 50" distance. The attachment at the top of the tripod is made using 12 gauge galvanized wire, while the latter attachments are typically made using either galvanized wire or insulated copper wire from available pieces of electrical ROMEX cable.

CYLINDER ASSEMBLY

- Procedure for assembling the cylinder is as follows: using a 7' x 28" section of fence as described above, begin rolling wire into cylinder shape using the first 3' of fence, and secure at that point with several cable ties.
- Next, cover the remaining 4' x 28" section with hay, spreading it evenly over the surface to a depth of about 4"(sufficient thickness of hay is very important). Continue rolling the fencing (as tightly as possible) and secure again with several cable ties.
- Finally, on each end of the cylinder, use 4 cable ties to clamp the hay tightly between the sandwiched sections of fencing. This will prevent loss of hay in strong winds.

- If the suggested amount of hay seems too light/heavy, adjust the depth when assembling the next cylinder. More is usually better.
- A triangular piece of ‘flooring’ is used to as a ‘safety net’ and to facilitate attachment to the cylinder in the field. The floor can be made from plastic garden fencing cut into an equilateral triangle 25 inches on a side. Use a template to trace the required shape onto the material.
- The floor is attached to the tripod legs at the apex points of the triangle using the insulated electrical wire mentioned above; the point of attachment is the lowest of the holes that are drilled in each leg (these are 50” from the top).
- The cylinder is attached to the tripod structure by resting it on the flooring, and securing it to the flooring using plastic cable ties; next, insulated wire is used to attach the cylinder mesh to the set of holes drilled in each of the tripod legs at the 40” distance. Cable ties through the cylinder grid and around each leg are also used to obtain a more rigid attachment.

