

Timeline for Southern Comfort

First, layout your Bocce Ball court. It should be 76 feet by 13 feet. You want to spend extra time and effort to make the playing surface as smooth and level as possible. Be sure to add extra space at each end for seating and remember to leave enough room for the two-foot wide Boxwood hedge. It will make it a lot easier if you lay out your whole garden now. Use rope, paint, and stakes.

You can do your paver patios anytime, but the earlier in the process the better. You must excavate out a lot of dirt, about six inches deep. If it is decent soil, use it mixed with compost in the beds around each patio. Remember to run wiring for your fountain before you lay your pavers.

Now, bring in a lot of good soil and compost to build full, healthy beds for your plants. Put down a layer of cardboard or five sheets of newspaper first to smother the grass and weeds. Build your beds about 12 inches high, and after a few rains, they will settle down. Then, add three or four inches of shredded pine bark mulch or pine needles on top. You can add edging to your beds or just taper the edge to meet the lawn.

Build your deck and put up your fence.

If you want a sprinkler system, this would be a great time to install it. Take lots of photos and some measurements so you remember where the pipes are later. Show your sprinkler installer your plan so he knows what heads to use. Don't have any heads in your Bocce Ball court. Keep them along the side edges, out of the playing surface.



Timeline for Southern Comfort (continued)

Start planting with the trees. Plant the Pines along the back fence and the Amur Maples for your alee. When you plant the big trees in the beds in front of your fire pit, plant the shrubs, perennials, and bulbs around them at the same time – before the tree roots grow to big. Plant the yews in both back corners. They are fairly slow growers. Now plant your Bocce Ball court Boxwood hedge. Plant the Boxwoods fairly close together for a quicker, fuller hedge.

As soon as the hedge is in, sod your yard.

You have several fun weekend projects that can be done at any time. Your trellises, swings, and pergola can be built from kits. The fence for your entry flower garden and the fire pit will take a couple of days. Build nice level pads for all eight of your big containers around the fountain.

You can install your fountain anytime. Use a solid base and make it very level.

Continue planting your mid-size trees; the Japanese Maples, Dogwoods, and Redbuds.

Your shrubs, perennials, bulbs, and annuals can be planted now to finish up your garden of Southern Comfort.

