

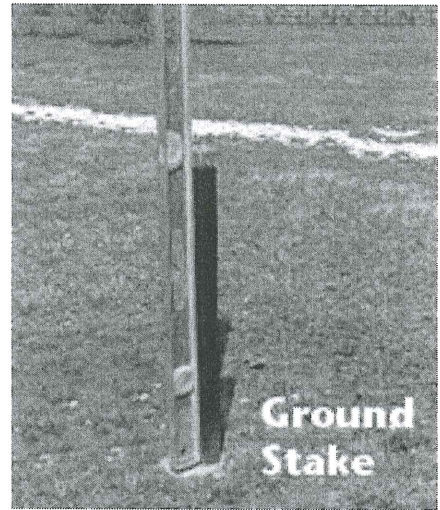
Deluxe Gourd Rack Ground Stake

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Location of pole: Your gourd rack should be placed as far away from trees and bushes as possible. The average minimum distance housing can be placed from trees and still attract martins is about 40 feet (southern landlords can get away with less). Martins require wide-open flight paths around their housing. Also, housing should be placed no further than 120 feet from human housing — martins like to be near humans — and no closer than about 25 feet.

- Using a posthole digger, dig a hole 36" deep by 9" wide.
- Put the ground stake in the center of the hole, **painted end up**. The end of the ground stake with the long piece of welded angle iron should be the end that sticks out of the ground, the end with the welded nut goes in the bottom of the hole.
- Add two 80# bags of wet, premixed concrete and fill the hole to ground level. The lower edge of the bottom section of the pole will rest on the concrete. Depending on soil conditions, a larger hole with more concrete may be needed. Be sure to leave 21" of the ground stake above the concrete.

Important: fill the hollow ground stake itself with cement to prevent water from accumulating and freezing inside. This also keeps the inside of the ground stake from rusting and makes it stronger.



The gourd rack pole will be placed over this ground stake later in the assembly process. Wipe off any wet cement from the outside of the ground stake above ground level; the pole will need to slide over this ground stake smoothly. Before the cement hardens, make sure the ground stake is vertically plumb by checking it on at least two planes with a long bubble level. (See photo.) Allow the cement to harden for 48 hours. Coat the outside of the ground stake with oil or grease.

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