



Rain Gardens

Making a Beautiful Difference!

This perennial garden of native plants protects water quality while adding beauty to the yard.

Water from the roof soaks in, instead of running off.

Why Build a Rain Garden?

- Water that soaks in replenishes groundwater and helps prevent flooding
- A rain garden protects water quality by trapping sediment, fertilizers and other pollutants.
- Once established, it needs no additional fertilizer and little weeding.
- Native plants provide food and shelter for butterflies, song birds and other animals.

A Typical Rain Garden...

- Is a sunken garden 4 - 8 inches deep
- Has a flat bottom
- Is $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the area draining to it – usually 75 - 300 square feet in size
- Can be formal or informal in design
- Drains within two days



Did you know...

Water running off residential roofs, roads and driveways can increase water in a stream by 500%, leading to increased flooding and erosion.

A 300-square-foot rain garden infiltrates 12,000 gallons of water every year, or enough to fill 2½ tanker trucks.

Why use native plants?

With roots growing down twice as deep as the plants are tall, native plants are very efficient at absorbing water.

Also, each year one-third of the roots die, providing deep tunnels for water to filter into the ground.



