Planting guide:

Partial Shade Garden

1. Virginia Wild Rye
2. Blue Lobelia
3. Rose Turtlehead
4. Copper Iris
5. Celandine Poppy
6. Cardinal Flower
7. Sweet Coneflower
8. River Oats
9. Wild Ageratum
10. Tussock Sedge

Partial shade wildflowers do best in areas where they will receive between four and six hours of sun per day. Placing your garden in an area that gets its sun during the morning hours and shade in the afternoon is most beneficial.

Full Sun Garden

1. Lanceleaf Coreopsis
2. Little Bluestem
3. Prairie Blazing Star
4. Marsh Milkweed
5. Soft Rush
6. Blue Sage
7. Blue Flag
8. Sideoats Grama
9. New England Aster
10. Wild Quinine
11. Black-Eyed Susan

Full sun wildflowers do best when they can receive six or more hours of sun per day. Full sun wildflowers prefer morning or afternoon sun.

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Clean Water. Healthy Life.
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How to build your own

Rain Garden

FACT:

Rain Gardens can absorb 30% more water than the same size area of lawn.

Why should I make a Rain Garden?

Catching water in a rain garden allows it to slowly filter into the ground. This means less rainwater is lost into our storm sewers which also means there is less flooding and erosion in our streams. What a beautiful way to improve the quality of water in our lakes and streams! Keeping water on site and letting it "perc" into the soil also means more water is available to recharge the water table underground.

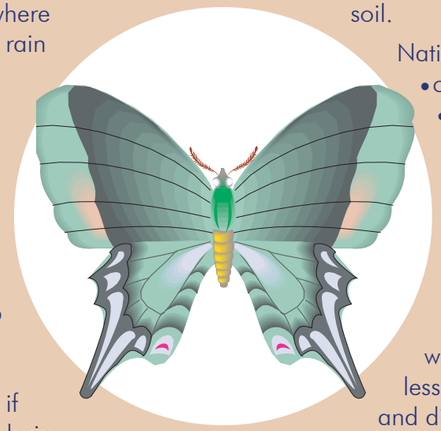
Where should I place a Rain Garden?

It is important to locate your rain garden where it will collect the most amount of rainfall runoff possible. Placing your rain garden downhill from paved surfaces where water would naturally flow will maximize its ability to collect runoff.

Rain Gardens are versatile; they can be any size or shape imaginable. It is most practical to locate your rain garden on level to moderate slopes. The most logical location for your rain garden is in an existing low spot in your yard. However, do not place your garden in an area where water currently ponds. Standing water shows you where the soil is slow to absorb water. The rain garden's function is to aid in water infiltration.

Be sure to place your rain garden at least 10 feet from buildings to keep water from seeping into and damaging the foundation.

Collecting rainfall from your rooftop is easy, too! Just place your garden where downspouts will drain into it, directing water with a shallow swale if necessary. You may also choose to drain your downspouts to your rain garden through a buried 4" plastic downspout extender like ones you can find at most home improvement stores.



What should I plant in a Rain Garden?

Native plants are a natural for this landscape application because they tolerate short periods of standing water, are drought tolerant, and their deep roots make it easy for water to move down into the soil.

Native plants are also great at:

- conserving soil and water,
- serving as non-polluting landscapes because they don't need fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides,
- supporting a diversity of wildlife by improving their habitat,
- reducing long-term maintenance after plantings are established,
- lasting longer because they are winter hardy,drought tolerant,and are less prone to destructive insects and diseases.

When choosing which natives are best for your rain garden, consider height, wildlife attraction, flowering and sun/shade tolerance. Consult the included planting guides for sun and partial shade plant recommendations that attract birds and butterflies.

How to:

It's simple! Just follow these three easy steps:

1. Start by digging a 4-8" depression with gradually sloping sides as large in circumference as you like. (A good rule of thumb is to size your garden at 30 percent of the area of the roof from which it will be collecting water.) A 4-8" depth will allow water to be captured, but will dry between rain events.

   If you prefer to hold water in your garden in drier times, dig a portion a little deeper, say 18" in depth. Test your soil's ability to hold water by filling the hole with water. If it drains out, you may want to install a plastic liner where you want ponding and install the plants around the liner.

2. Plant natives recommended in the plans below.

3. Add untreated, shredded hardwood mulch to a depth of 3" on all of the bare soil around the plants to prevent erosion while your natives are establishing.

TIP:

While your natives are establishing their roots, you'll need to water them about every other day. This should be done for the first two to three weeks, or until the plants show that they are growing and doing well. When your natives are established, they won't require any additional watering!

Check out the back cover for a key to the plants in these two gardens!

TIP:

Remember not to fertilize your natives. Fertilizer causes them to grow too tall and fall over. It also stimulates weed growth and creates competition for your natives.