

Rain Gardens

How do I manage water?

A guide for managing water using Rain gardens.

Many urban surfaces have been made impervious and do not allow rain to infiltrate into groundwater. This leads to toxic runoff, flooding, and costly infrastructure to hold and move rainwater. You can help by building a rain garden.

Where should I put my rain garden?

- Find a low-lying area where water already flows
- Avoid areas near a buildings foundation
- Make sure it's safe to dig (no underground cables or pipes)

How do I prepare my area?

- Prep the soil: Test drainage, mix in sand and compost. Building Soil 2012 WDOE Stormwater Management – check for recent
- Dig the basin: Make a shallow dip with a berm to hold water.

Do you have new construction?

- There are guidelines for Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure that can help lower your costs.
- Smart Watering (gardenhotline.org)
- www.savingwater.org

Are there grants I can apply for?

- In some areas, the cost of water management is so high that money is given to homeowners to reduce the volume of water, and thus the cost of flood management. Rainwise
- For example, the Soak it Up Program in the City of Shoreline

Are native plants good for rain gardens?

- Our native plants are great for rain gardens as they are adapted to long wet winters and increasingly dry summers.
- See plant suggestions on page 2.

Go Natives! Website

<https://gonativesnursery.com/>

[Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington, WA Dept of Ecology and WSU](#)

[Choosing the Right Plants for Your Rain Garden, City of Bothell](#)

[Native Plants for Rain Gardens, Snohomish Conservation District](#)

Rain Garden Plants



Douglas spiraea

Spiraea douglasii

Sun-part shade, pink flowers



red-twig dogwood

Cornus sericea

Sun-shade, birds



nootka rose

Rosa nutkana

Sun-part shade, pollinators



sword fern

Polystichum munitum

Part shade-shade, fern



showy fleabane

Erigeron speciosus

Sun-part shade, showy



camas

Camassia quamash

Sun-part shade, edible



slough sedge

Carex obnupta

Sun-part shade, evergreen



Common rush

Juncus effusus

Sun-part shade, grassy leaves



tufted hairgrass

Deschampsia cespitosa

Sun-part shade, texture,