



## How to Plant Your Own Rain Garden

### Location

Your garden can be in the front, side or rear yard. Make sure the location:

- receives water from a downspout or is located in a low spot.
- is at least 10' away from the house.
- is sunny for part of the day.

### Design:

- Make a size and shape that fits your yard
- Dig a slight depressions to catch water if it is not located in a low spot.
- Select a garden style — from formal to wild — suitable to the location
- Add compost to help young plants and absorb water.

### Maintenance:

Maintenance of native plants is minimal once they are established however, young plants will need some care in their first year.

- Water often right after planting and about 1" per week for the first season.
- Little weeding is necessary if you use a 3"- 5" layer of mulch. Also, don't pull out plants that have spread.
- No fertilizers or pesticides are needed.

## Recommended Websites

### RAIN GARDENS:

- [dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater)
- [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org)
- [www.raingardennetwork.com](http://www.raingardennetwork.com)
- [www.mninter.net/~stack/rain](http://www.mninter.net/~stack/rain)

### GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS:

- [www.for-wild.org](http://www.for-wild.org)
- [www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)
- [www.chicagowilderness.org](http://www.chicagowilderness.org)



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# RAIN GARDENS

A rain garden is a perennial garden designed to collect and use rainwater. The garden is located to catch rain from runoff from your roof, patio or lawn. It helps the water soak into the ground instead of running off into lakes, streams or the storm sewer system.



# Why Should I Plant a Rain Garden?

Rain is normal – stormwater is not. Urban stormwater runoff is a major water pollutant. It contains fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste and other debris. Rain gardens improve water quality by capturing runoff, filtering the water and helping to infiltrate (soak into) the ground.

## A RAIN GARDEN WILL ALSO:

- Recharge groundwater
- Conserve water
- Remove standing water from your yard
- Reduce mosquito breeding
- Create habitats
- Reduce garden maintenance
- Survive drought
- Increase garden enjoyment



# Go Native!

Native plants are perfect for rain gardens.

## Native plants are tough.

Plants native to our area have adapted to our temperature extremes, rainfall amounts and soil types.

## Native plants provide wildlife habitat.

Local birds, animals, insects and native plants have lived together for thousands of year, so native plants encourage native wildlife.

## Native plants have deep roots.

Deep roots help the soil absorb water and also help prevent erosion.



# Native Plant List

## PLANTS FOR FULL SUN:

- Butterfly Milkweed
- Smooth Blue Aster
- New England Aster
- Prairie Coreopsis
- Prairie Blazing Star
- Prairie Phlox
- Obedient Plant
- Showy Goldenrod
- Indiangrass

## PLANTS FOR PARTIAL SHADE:

- Wild Columbine
- Wild Geranium
- Blue Flag Iris
- Cardinal Flower
- Jacob's Ladder

## PLANTS FOR FULL SHADE:

- Maidenhair Fern
- Lady Fern
- Virginia Waterleaf
- Virginia Bluebells
- Blue Phlox
- May Apple

