

FOR PARTICIPANTS

STORMWATER TOOL

Metal Downspout Planter

What is a Downspout Planter?

- A downspout planter is a decorative garden planter filled with gravel, soil and vegetation that uses rainfall from the roof to irrigate the plants.
- Downspout planters are connected to the roof downspout to let water flow in and hold it temporarily before entering the sewer system.
- Downspout planters contain a special soil mix that is optimal for absorbing and filtering stormwater runoff. It is a mix of sand, topsoil, compost, and biochar.

Benefits of a Downspout Planter

- A downspout planter is an attractive green addition to a yard or patio and comes with its own rain-driven irrigation system. Downspout planters filter sediment and pollutants, reducing the impact of stormwater pollution on our waterways.

Caring for Your Downspout Planter

- Water the plants (once per week for the first month or so, but water more if the soil in the planter seems dry).
- Water vegetation during extended droughts too; otherwise the downspout planter should not require any watering. A good rule of thumb is if plants appear to be wilting then water as you would any planter.
- Keep the overflow pipe (view image) free and clear of debris, checking it periodically after rainstorms.
- Keep the downspout connection (or diverter) connected and directed to the planter.
- Leave underdrain valve with opening of 1/8" to allow water to be released slowly over time.
- Do not plant edible food in a downspout planter. Stormwater running into the planter may carry dirt and debris not suitable for edible plants.

What Will It Cost?

- Homeowner pays: \$100
- PWD pays: \$900
- Total cost: \$1,000

Next Steps:

- Go to www.pwdraincheck.org and visit the "Pick Your Project" section to see if this tool is right for your property. Then sign up for a free workshop.



Connected to the roof downspout, these planters slow water down before entering the sewer while irrigating plants and removing pollutants.



Overflow Pipe

Downspout Connector

Underdrain Valve

For more information, frequently asked questions and price points, go to www.pwdraincheck.org

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Metal Downspout Planter (CONTINUED)

Keep an Eye on Your Downspout Planter

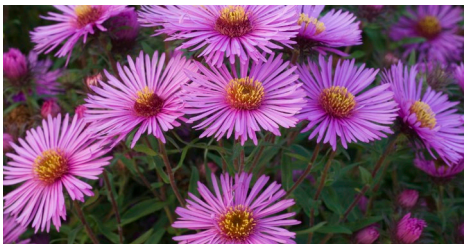
- Check the downspout planter after rainstorms to make sure that the water is soaking into the soil and not overflowing on the surface. If water is not draining, remove the underdrain valve from the lower rear side of the planter to check for clogs or blockages.
- Check the downspout connection into the downspout planter to ensure that nothing is dislodged following an intense storm.
- Inspect plants to evaluate health and replace if necessary.
- Prune and remove dead material from your downspout planter as you would with your garden. Ensure that floatable materials do not clog the overflow device.
- Maintain your roof gutters and downspouts to ensure that they function properly and convey stormwater to your green tool.

Consider This!

- If you disconnect your downspout planter, ensure that the downspout is safely reconnected to the sewer and not draining to your property, your neighbor's property or the sidewalk.

Plants

- There are three native plant mixes available. These plants were chosen based on their ability to live in dry and wet conditions, their stormwater management potential, and sun conditions. Plant selection will vary depending on the light requirements, season and availability. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate specific requests, but all plants are complementary.



Full Sun

- Smooth aster (perennial wildflower)
- Bee balm (perennial wildflower)
- Red switch grass (grass)



Part Shade

- Feather reed grass (grass)
- Red switch grass (grass)
- Black-eyed susan (perennial wildflower)



Full Shade

- Blue star (perennial wildflower)
- Feather reed grass (grass)
- Black-eyed susan (perennial wildflower)
- Spiderwort (perennial wildflower)

Sizes:

The Rain Check metal downspout planters come in one standard size (the final height of the planter will be greater once it is placed on cinder blocks):

H x W x L

2' x 2' x 4'
exact dimensions may vary

Storage Volume

+/- 78 gallons

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