

FOR PARTICIPANTS

STORMWATER TOOL

Rain Garden

What is a Rain Garden?

- A rain garden is a shallow, planted depression that absorbs the water that flows from your roof or any hard surface, allowing it to drain directly into the soil.
- Rain gardens are one of the simplest and most effective ways to “green” your landscape and manage stormwater.
- A rain garden will reduce stormwater pollution, replenish the groundwater supply and provide a self-irrigating landscape!

Benefits of a Rain Garden

- Create an attractive and unique landscape feature.
- Slow down stormwater runoff and filter pollution.
- Prevent runoff from polluting our local rivers and streams.
- Create habitat for birds and butterflies.

Caring for Your Rain Garden

- Water the rain garden frequently (once per week for the first month or so). Once established, it should need little to no additional watering.
- Weed and prune as you would any garden.
- Do not be afraid to move plants around if you think they would do better in drier or wetter parts of the garden.
- Do not plant edible food in a rain garden. Stormwater running into the garden may carry dirt and debris not suitable for edible plants. In addition, urban soils should be tested before being used for growing edibles.



This shallow, planted depression absorbs the water that flows from a roof or patio.



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

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Rain Garden (CONTINUED)

Keep in Mind

- Rain gardens should be sloped away from the home and neighboring properties.
- They should also be located approximately 10 ft. from the foundation of the home and cannot be located above underground utilities.
- Soil conditions must be appropriate; the contractor will complete an infiltration test to determine this.
- Plant selection options will vary based on the location of the garden and the availability of plant species.
- A rain garden could be planted following concrete removal if the assessor can verify the soil conditions.

What Will It Cost?

- If you choose a rain garden, a landscaping contractor will visit your home to provide an estimate based on your property.
- Most gardens cost about \$17–25/sq. ft.
- PWD will pay \$16/sq. ft. up to a maximum of \$2,000.
- The homeowner pays the remainder of the total cost.

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.

Common Rain Garden Plants

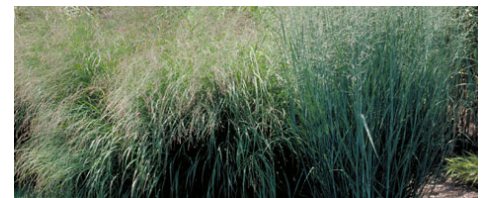
For a more complete list of sample rain garden plants, visit: <http://raingardenalliance.org/planting/plantlist>



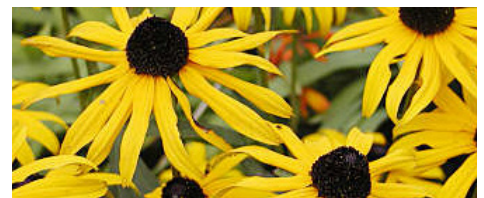
Brown-Eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia triloba*)
Image: Illinois Wildflowers



Little Joe Pye Weed
(*Eupatorium dubium*)
Image: The Hiker's Notebook / William Needham



Switchgrass
(*Panicum virgatum*)
Image: Nature for Cities



Goldsturm
(*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
Image: Falling Water Designs



Small-reed or Reedgrass
(*Calamagrostis*)
Image: Environmental Management Landscape, Inc, Chris Matson, 2010

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