

RAIN GARDENS



Tapping into NATURE'S RAIN DRAINS

*** one flower at a time ***

Quite simply, rain gardens are gardens that soak up rain from your roof, driveway, sidewalk or yard. They are different from your typical flower garden. Rain Gardens are planted with wild flowers and deep-rooted native vegetation, which helps the ground soak up more water. They are typically placed near downspouts on a home to capture water so that the runoff can gradually soak into the ground.

Rain Gardens typically absorb 30 percent more water than a conventional, well-manicured lawn. By directing the water into the ground, we are cutting down on the risk of sewer overflows and basement backups.

Rain gardens prevent stormwater from picking up pollution as it washes across yards, driveways and parking lots. Stormwater runoff from developed areas increases flooding and leads to costly municipal improvements in stormwater treatment structures. The rain garden fills with a few inches of water after a storm and the water slowly filters into the ground rather than running off to a storm drain. Plants, roots and soil from your garden cleanse and purify stormwater as it soaks into the ground.

Rain gardens can help recharge drinking water supplies and aquifers while adding beauty to your yard and neighborhood.



A Beautiful Solution To Water Pollution

Below is a quote from "Land And Water", The Magazine of Natural Resource Management and Restoration, in an article about rainwater gardens.

"By capturing runoff in shallow depressions and letting it soak into the ground, rainwater gardens not only lowers the peak flow, but increases the base flow of water that reaches lakes and streams, but help recharge stores of groundwater in aquifers. Moreover, they filter out sediment and other pollutants like oil, grease and heavy metals by catching about the first inch of runoff, which contains the highest concentration of pollutants.

Rainwater gardens transform stormwater from a destructive carrier of pollution into a source of sustenance for plant and wildlife habitats: the plants thrive on nitrogen and phosphorus, while their stems trap sediment."

Do You Have A Wet Spot In Your Yard where Grass Does Not Grow?

*** PLANT A RAIN GARDEN ***

The following links will give you all the information you need to design and plant your very own rain garden including a How-To Manual for Homeowners.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/documents/rgmanual.pdf>

<http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/factsheet.asp?code=50>

http://docs.google.com/gview?a=v&q=cache:rHDJ6ro68iUJ:www.ahs.org/040329_TAG/rainy_day_gardens.pdf+rain+garden&hl=en&gl=us

http://www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox/other/cwc_raingardenbrochure.pdf

http://www.raingardennetwork.com/Newsletter_v1.1.htm

<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/home.gardens.pdf>