

## RAIN GARDENS FOR THE HOME

Rain gardens are attractive landscaped areas planted with perennial native plants that don't mind getting "wet feet", they are beautiful gardens, built in depressions, designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces around the home, such as rooftops and driveways.

Recent studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is delivered by run-off from practices we carry out in our own yards and gardens! Some of the common "non-point source pollutants" from our yards include soil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings and other yard debris.

The benefits of Rain Gardens include: recharging groundwater supply, preventing water quality problems, providing habitat for birds and butterflies, and improved aesthetics !

Planting a rain garden is great way to help our communities and watersheds clean!



## RAIN GARDEN INSTALLATIONS IN LAKE COUNTY

Mentor - Garfield Park, Mentor Marsh  
Nature Center, Mentor Lagoons

Kirtland - The Holden Arboretum,  
Penitentiary Glen

Painesville Township - Lake County  
Fairgrounds

Concord Township - Township Hall

Fairport Harbor Village - Fairport Senior  
Center

Perry - Perry Outdoor Y



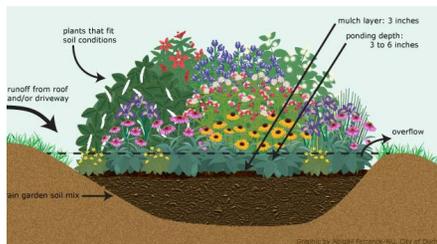
For more information on Rain Gardens:  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
125 E. Erie St, Painesville, Ohio 44077  
soil@lakecountyohio.gov  
440-350-2730  
[www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd)

# RAIN GARDENS FOR THE HOME

# THE RAIN GARDEN RUN DOWN

## HOW IT WORKS

The depression allows the water to collect, preventing it from running off into a storm sewer, drainage ditch or stream. The water then can percolate into the soil. The long rooted native plants help to filter out pollutants and break up the soil further enhancing drainage.



## WHERE TO PUT IT?

Watch the water flow during your next rainstorm. Locate your rain garden in its path.

Try to place your rain garden at least 10 feet from the house to keep water away from your foundation. Don't site the rain garden above a septic drain field. During your planning, check the locations of underground utilities. **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**

## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

A typical rain garden is a basin about 6 to 12 inches deep with a 6-inch-high berm hugging its downhill side. The material excavated from the basin can be used to build the berm, while the basin is filled 2/3 of its depth with a mix of equal parts mulch, sand, and native soil.

The basin should be set level in the ground and should have a flat bottom to spread water over the largest possible area. The design can include an overflow.

## WHAT ABOUT MOSQUITOES?

Mosquitoes only breed in water that stands for 7 or more days. The easiest way to reduce your mosquito population is to design your garden to absorb all the runoff within a 12-48 hours.

## WHAT PLANTS CAN GROW THERE?

Choose low maintenance native plants that can survive being periodically inundated by water, but do not require permanently wet conditions. When planting consider that the sides and edges of your rain garden will be drier than the center.

Use plants that are adapted to a variety of conditions by choosing a diverse mix of grasses, shrubs, ferns and flowering plants.

*The plants to the right are all great choices for a Rain Garden. For a more complete list of native rain garden plants see the Rain Garden Manual for Homeowners or the Rain Garden app.*

## HOW TO CARE FOR IT?

Mulch your plants after planting to keep soil moist and prevent erosion. Use a double shredded hardwood mulch that won't float away when the rain garden fills with water.

Water your rain garden plants once a week during the growing season for the first year or until they are established. Weeding will be necessary for the first couple years as your young plants grow, but as your plants mature, they will crowd out weeds. It is easiest to pull weeds when the garden is moist.



Cardinal Flower



Cinnamon Fern



Big Bluestem



Ninebark

# TOOLS TO HELP YOU DESIGN AND INSTALL YOUR RAIN GARDEN

## RAIN GARDEN MANUAL FOR HOMEOWNERS

This manual walks you through the planning and installation of a rain garden. It includes planting suggestions and tips to ensure your rain garden is functional and beautiful.

The manual is a cooperative effort of the Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education Workgroup (NEO PIPE).



Print copies are available in the Lake SWCD office. The manual; can also be accessed digitally at:

[www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd/Landowners/RainGardens](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/swcd/Landowners/RainGardens)

## RAIN GARDEN APP



"Rain Garden" is a free app developed by the University of Connecticut to help you properly install a rain garden at your home, office, or job site. Through video tutorials, diagrams, text, and tools,

the App guides you through determining the size and placement of your garden, selecting plants, digging and planting your garden, and maintaining your garden. It also includes tools for determining your soil type, measuring the size of the area that will drain to your garden, and managing multiple rain garden projects. Available for Apple and Android.

## CONTACT LAKE SWCD

Call 440-350-2730 or email [soil@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:soil@lakecountyohio.gov) . We can help you decide if a rain garden is right for your site.