

Native plants are best suited for a rain garden. They are adapted to the local climate and rainfall; once established they seldom need watering or fertilizing.

PLANT LIST

All of the plants on this list were chosen because they attract butterflies and other pollinators or provide food for birds. The following plants are suited for a sunny location.



Inkberry (Ilex glabra) and a native pollinator the Bumblebee (Bombus pennsylvanicus)



Sheep Laurel (Kalmia angustifolia)

Did you know? A rain garden absorbs 30% more water than a grassed lawn of the same size.



Butterfly Weed (Asclepias tuberosa)

FLOWERING PERENNIALS

- Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*)
- Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Eastern Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*)
- False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
- Hyssop-Leaved Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium hyssopifolium*)
- Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*)
- Maryland Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*)
- Narrowleaf Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*)
- New York Aster (*Symphotrichum novi-belgii*)
- New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
- Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
- Smooth Blue Aster (*Symphotrichum laeve*)
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)
- Virginia Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*)
- Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)



EVERGREEN/SHRUBS

- American Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)
- Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
- Northern Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*)
- Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)
- Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

A properly designed rain garden should drain within 24 hours, therefore the garden will not breed mosquitoes.



Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis) and Blazing Star (Liatris spicata) pictured here with Nicole Spinelli, SCSWCD.

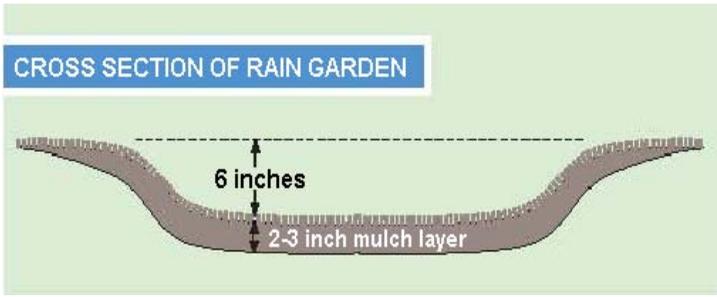


Diagram credit UCONN Cooperative Extension System

CREATE YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN AT HOME...

Placement

1. Your garden should be at least ten feet from the foundation of your home or building.
2. Do not locate the garden near a septic system or high water table.
3. Locate the garden in a level or slightly sloped area.

Construction

1. Check your soil: rain gardens work best in well-drained soils. If you have clay soil, add compost to the planting area, and consider increasing the size of your garden.
2. Size: the garden should be 1/6th the square footage of the area draining into it. For example if 450 sq. ft. of your roof drains into the garden, $450/6 = 75$ sq. ft., therefore the size of your garden should be 75 sq. ft.

For additional information:

- "Rain Gardens in Connecticut", UCONN Cooperative Extension System, http://nemo.uconn.edu/publications/rain_garden_broch.pdf.
- "Rain Gardens Fact Sheet", Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension, http://water.rutgers.edu/Fact_Sheets/fs513.pdf.
- "Rain Gardens, A How-to Manual for Homeowners", Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/pdf/rg/rgmanual.pdf>.



From left to right: Liz Camps, USDA-NRCS; Liz Condon, SCSWCD; Sharon Frost, SCSWCD; Ed Romaine, SC Legislator; Vito Minei, SCCCE; Paul TeNyenhuis, SCSWCD; George Proios, SCSWCD Chair; Nicole Spinelli, SCSWCD; and Polly Weigand, SCSWCD.

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, with the support of Suffolk County Legislator Edward Romaine and the Suffolk County Department of Public Works, has created a demonstration rain garden in the rear parking lot of their Riverhead office. It was designed to capture polluted stormwater before it reaches the storm drain. This rain garden was funded by the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

A special thank you to the staff of USDA-NRCS and USDA-FSA who helped us establish this garden and to the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) who donated many of the plants.



Suffolk County
Soil & Water Conservation District
 423 Griffing Avenue • Riverhead • NY • 11901
 (631) 852-3287 • FAX (631) 852-3302
www.SuffolkSWCD.org



SUFFOLK COUNTY

Soil & Water Conservation District
Preserving future generations' natural resources today.

RAIN GARDENS

What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a depression in the landscape that is used to collect and treat polluted stormwater. It collects rain that runs off from rooftops, driveways, patios, streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces. A rain garden can be established anywhere and be any size, commercial or residential. Stormwater that travels into a rain garden is temporarily ponded - but it doesn't stay for long; the pollutants are treated by the soil and

