



RAIN GARDENS

Stormwater

Stormwater is precipitation (rain, snow, etc.) that runs off of an impervious surface during a weather event. An impervious surface is any area that precipitation can't naturally soak into - like roads, roofs, sidewalks, etc.

Many people assume that this water goes down the storm drain or into the ditch before being treated at a water treatment plant. This is incorrect. Stormwater is often directly discharged into a stream or other body of water, meaning that any litter or pollution in the water also goes directly into the stream without treatment. This negatively impacts water quality!

Rain gardens protect water quality by storing stormwater before it reaches a stream.



What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a type of green infrastructure that is designed to capture and temporarily store stormwater runoff until it is absorbed into the soil. The design features a shallow basin with a berm around it, as well as an inflow and outflow point. The basin and berm are planted with a variety of native plants that will capture stormwater and filter the pollutants it contains. In addition to mitigating stormwater runoff, rain gardens provide food for wildlife and pollinators, and are a beautiful landscaping addition to your lawn or garden.

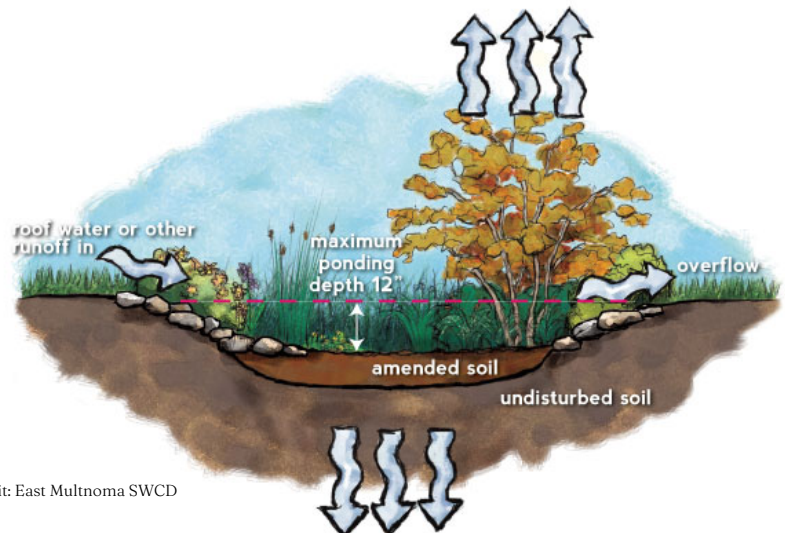


Image Credit: East Multnomah SWCD



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What Should I Plant In My Rain Garden?

When planting a rain garden, it is important to select plant species that can tolerate flooding and saturation. These plants are often referred to as having "wet feet". The Columbiana SWCD can help you design and plan your rain garden.

Flowers

Swamp Milkweed *Asclepias incarnata*
Butterflyweed *Asclepias tuberosa*
Columbine *Aquilegia canadensis*
Smooth Aster *Aster laevis*
New England Aster *Aster novae-angli*
White Turtlehead *Chelone glabra*
Shasta Daisy *Chrysanthemum maximum*
Purple Coneflower *Echinacea purpurea*
Joe-Pye Weed *Eupatorium purpureum*
Wild Geranium *Geranium maculatum*
Sneezeweed *Helenium autumnale*
Blue Flag Iris *Iris versicolor*
Blazing Star *Liatris spicata*
Great Blue Lobelia *Lobelia siphilitica*
Wild Bergamot *Monarda fistulosa*
Forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica*
Black Eyed Susan *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*
Brown Eyed Susan *Rudbeckia triloba*
Arrowhead *Sagittaria latifolia*
Royal Catchfly *Silene regia*
Cup Plant *Silphium perfoliatum*
Prairie Dock *Silphium terebinthinaceum*
Ohio Spiderwort *Tradescantia ohioensis*

Shrubs and Trees

River Birch *Betula nigra*
Buttonbush *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Silky dogwood *Cornus americana*
Red Twig Dogwood *Cornus sericea*
Mountain-laurel *Kalmia latifolia*
Shining Sumac *Rhus copallinum*
Pussy Willow *Salix discolor*
Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*
Blueberries *Vaccinium sp.*
Nannyberry *Viburnum lentago*

Grasses and Sedges

Stalk-Grain Sedge *Carex stipata*
Northern Sea Oats *Chasmanthium latifolium*
Virginia Wild Rye *Elymus virginicus*
Switch Grass *Panicum virgatum*
Little Bluestem *Schizachyrium scoparium*
Prairie Cord Grass *Spartina pectinata*

Ferns

Ostrich Fern *Matteuccia struthiopteris*
Sensitive Fern *Onoclea sensibilis*
Cinnamon Fern *Osmunda cinnamomea*

There many more species that can be planted in a rain garden! Contact the CSWCD for further information.

