

A stylized, colorful illustration of a landscape. The foreground features rolling green hills with a dark brown path. On the left, there is a green tree, a purple flower, and an orange flower. A small red bird is flying in the sky. The background consists of layered blue and white waves, suggesting a sky or water. The overall style is flat and modern.

# RAIN GARDENS

Homeowners & Stormwater Workshop  
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# What Is A Rain Garden

- *A shallow depression landscaped with plants*
- *Collects rainwater from impervious surfaces*
- *Idea is for water to filter into soil rather than running over the surface thus reducing pollutants from running into streams and other waterways*



## Small Rain Garden off Driveway

*Landscaped with Native Perennials*

## HOW TO

Choose Area, Size and Design  
Prep Bed and Soil (if necessary)  
Pick out Your Plants  
Plant It, Mulch It, Water It  
Sit Back and Enjoy

Remember water should accumulate in the Rain Garden, but should drain into the bed within 24 – 48 hours of a heavy rain.

# RAIN GARDENS



*Water from house downspouts draining into large rain garden*



*Downspout buried and diverted to empty into river rocks to disperse water flow before entering rain garden*

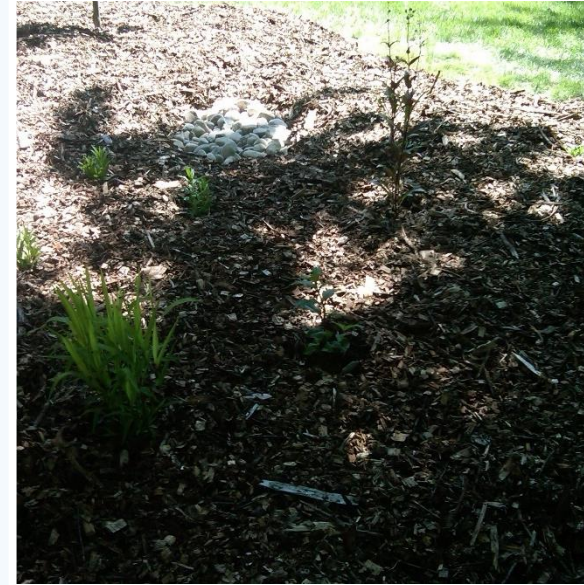
# RAIN GARDENS



*Shady spot – not ideal for a rain garden but have no choice*



*Perennials planted down slope from diverting rocks*



*Short statured native perennials*



## Established Rain Gardens

Color

Texture

Great for  
Bees and  
Pollinators

# SIZING YOUR RAIN GARDEN



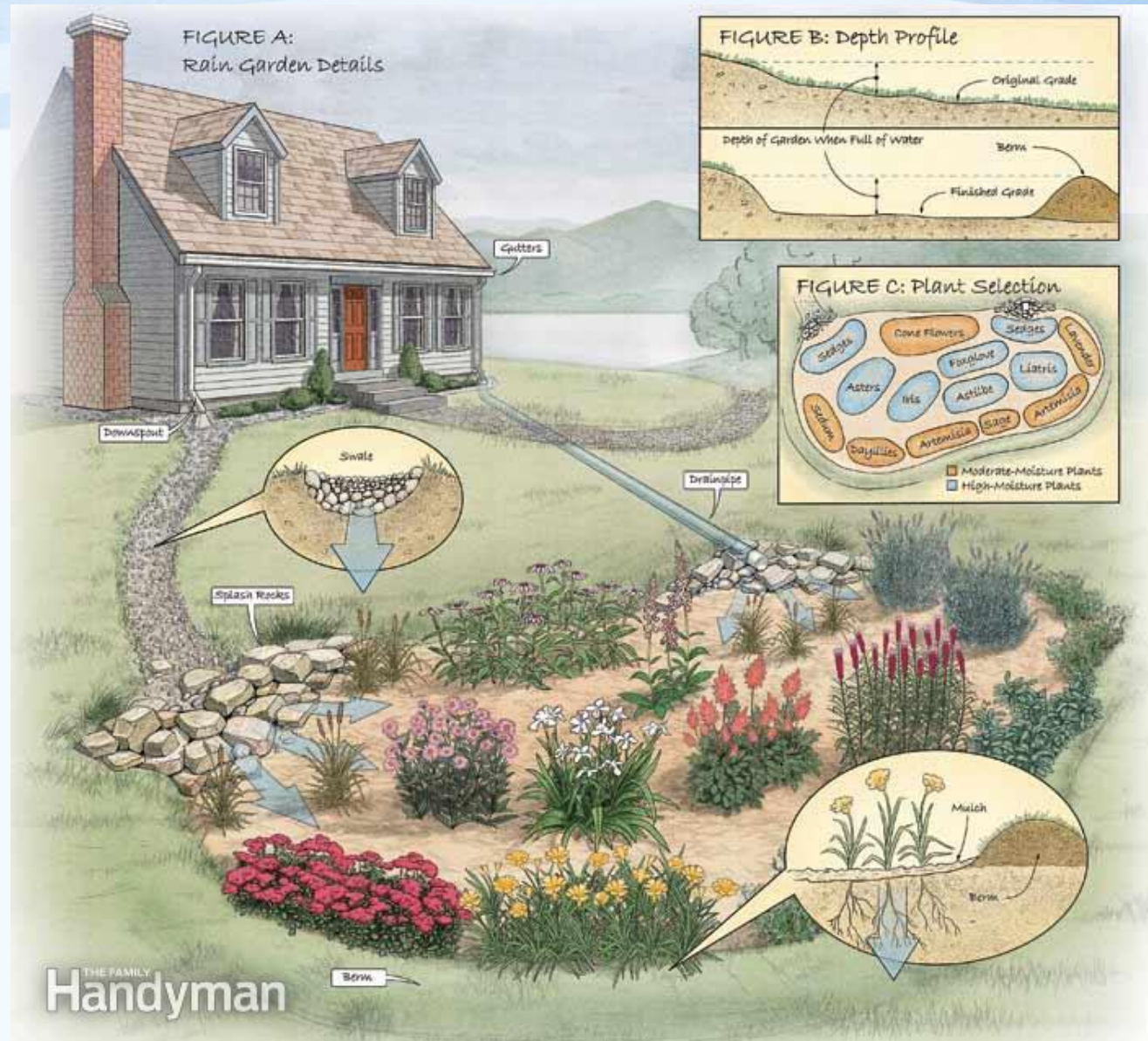


# Simple Rule of Thumb

- Identify impervious area that will drain to rain garden, such as a portion of your house.
- Estimate the area in square feet.
- Divide that area by 6. This is the square footage you need with an average depth of 6”.

# Sizing Example

500 square feet of rooftop. Divide by 6 is 83 square feet. A 9' x 9' rain garden with 6" of ponding is an appropriate size.





# PLANTS TO USE

*Good Idea to Use Native Plants*

# Native Plants for Rain Gardens

## SHRUBS

- Chokeberry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Silky Dogwood
- Winterberry
- Itea
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Spicebush
- Witchhazel

## PERENNIALS

- Milkweeds
- Turtlehead
- Joe Pye Weed
- Cardinal Flower
- Ironweed
- New England Aster
- Penstemon
- Obedient Flower
- Coneflowers
- Black-Eyed Susans
- Monarda
- Boneset

## NATIVE GRASSES

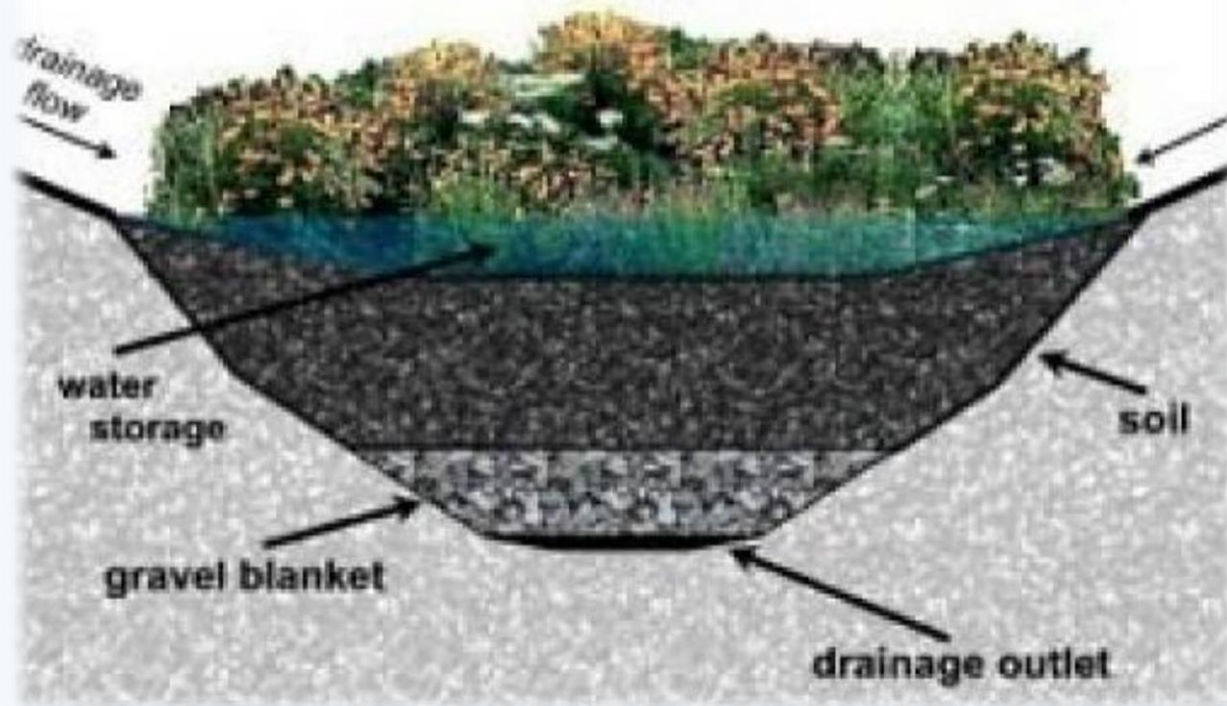
- Indian Grass
- Switchgrass
- Little Bluestem



# ADDRESSING ISSUES

*When your soils do not infiltrate well*

Cross-section of typical rain garden

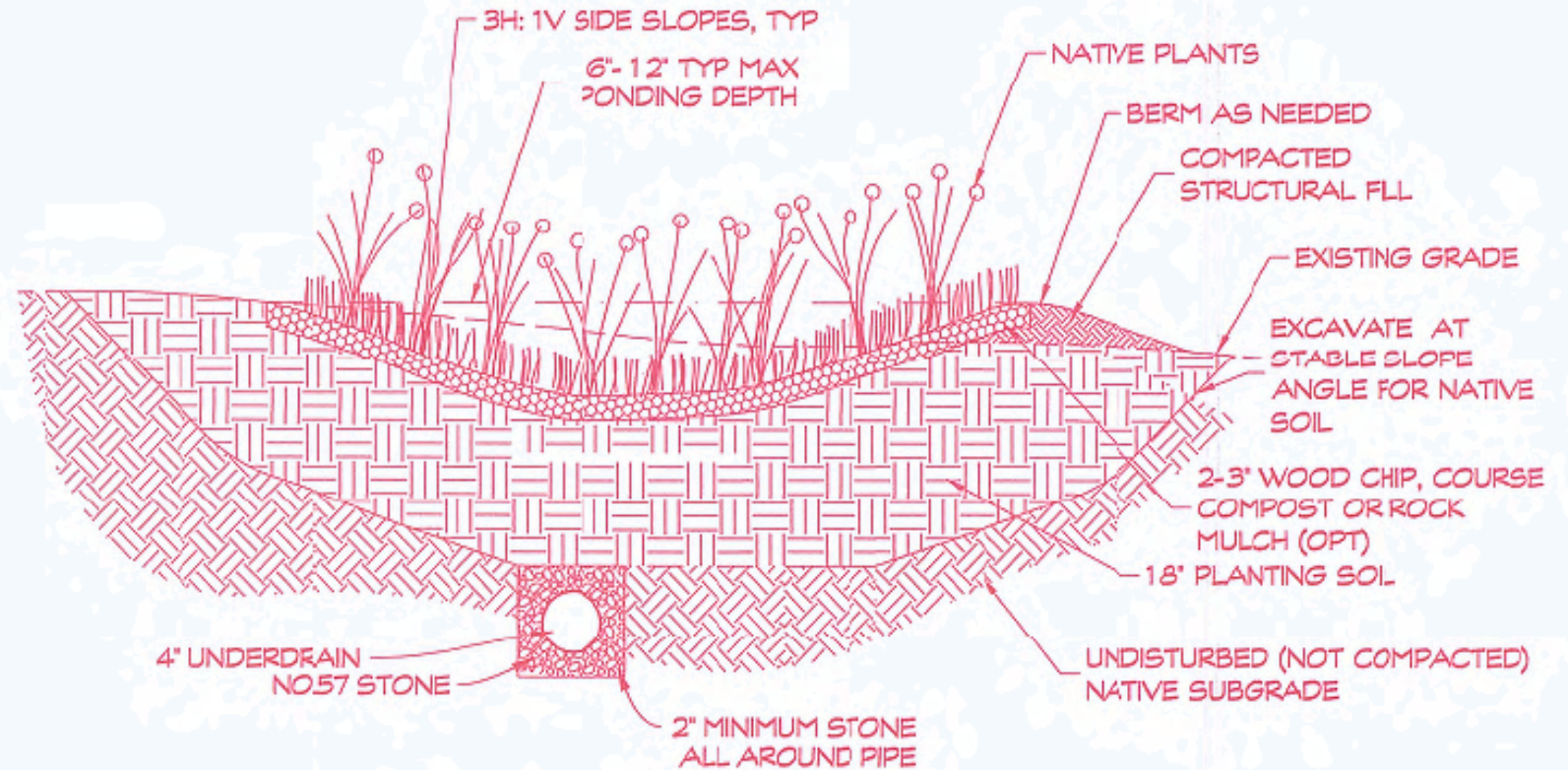


## Drains @ Half Inch per Hour or Slower

Put 4 inches of washed gravel underneath the planting soil. This should be gravel for drainage, which is all similar in size. Don't use gravel for driving on, which has a range of sizes to allow it to lock together.

# Soils Don't Drain Well OR Rain Garden Not Draining

Add an underdrain using a section of perforated HDPE pipe, surrounded by washed gravel under your planting soil that then has some place to drain. This will keep your rain garden dry.



**RAIN GARDEN DETAIL**  
NOT TO SCALE



## Existing Rain Garden Starts Holding Water

Remove the top couple of inches of soil and replace.



Rain Gardens beautify  
your property, while  
helping the local  
environment and the  
Chesapeake Bay  
Watershed

THANKS FOR  
ATTENDING!