



Suggested native plants are:

**Shade**

- Cardinal Flower
- Jack in the Pulpit
- Pink Turtlehead
- Swamp Azalea
- Lady Fern

**Sun**

- Black-eyed Susan
- Swamp Milkweed
- Joe-Pye Weed
- Texas Star
- Blue Star

***TIP:** Remember not to fertilize your natives. Fertilizer causes them to grow too tall and fall over. It also stimulates weed growth and creates competition for your natives.*

**More Information About Native Plants**

- [www.montreatlandcare.org](http://www.montreatlandcare.org) and click on "projects"
- [www.ncwildflower.org](http://www.ncwildflower.org)
- [www.buncombemastergardener.org](http://www.buncombemastergardener.org) and search "rain garden natives"

**Resources:**

- NC Cooperative Extension Backyard Rain Gardens
- Oregon Rain Garden Guide: Landscaping for Clean Water and Healthy Streams



*About Montreat Landcare:*

The Montreat Landcare Committee is a community-based group of volunteers working on conservation projects that contribute to positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes. Montreat Landcare is charged with the task of organizing projects to protect, to preserve, and to present the natural features of our cove. Eight organizations ("entities") comprise the Landcare Committee. Each entity conducts tangible efforts for stewardship of the Earth and the environments of the Montreat cove.

Visit the Landcare website for more information!



[www.Montreatlandcare.org](http://www.Montreatlandcare.org)  
 P .0. Box 423  
 Montreat, NC 28757  
[info@montreatlandcare.org](mailto:info@montreatlandcare.org)

With thanks to

Joe Standaert for photographs

Patti Banks Associates for content

Graphic Design by Samantha Reece, UPS Store Print Manager

# Build Your Own

# Rain Garden



# Protecting the Environment, One Yard at a Time

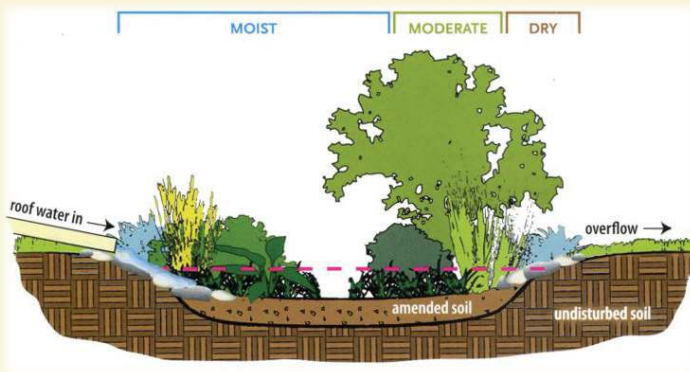
## What is a Rain Garden?

A "Rain Garden" is simply a shallow depression in your yard that's planted with perennial native plants that don't mind getting their feet wet. Its purpose is to capture and filter rainwater into the ground, provide habitat for wetland fauna, and deliver enjoyment for everyone.



## Why are Rain Gardens Important?

Catching water in a rain garden allows it to slowly filter into the ground. Less rainwater is lost into our storm sewers, there is less flooding, and less soil erodes into creeks and rivers. Keeping water on site recharges the water table.



**TIP:** Don't worry about mosquitos. Your garden will drain within 2 days and mosquitos need standing water for 7-12 days to complete their life cycle.

## Where Should I Install My Rain Garden?

Locate your rain garden where it will collect the most rainfall runoff possible. Place your rain garden in a low spot downhill from paved surfaces where water would naturally flow. Don't forget to collect rainfall from your rooftop. Place your garden where gutter downspouts drain into it, directing water with a buried 4" plastic downspout extender from your home improvement store.



## Where Do I Begin?

Just follow these steps!

1. Start by digging a 4-8" depression with gradually sloping sides as large in circumference as you like. A good rule of thumb is to size your garden at 30 percent of the area of the roof from which it will be collecting water. Remember, rain gardens are not designed to hold water for long periods. They will generally drain within 24-48 hours after heavy rain.
2. Plant natives such as those listed in this brochure.
3. Add untreated, shredded hardwood mulch to a depth of 3" on all of the bare soil around the plants to prevent erosion while your natives get established.

or

Consider hiring a landscape professional!

## What Should I Plant?



Native plants are a natural because they tolerate short periods of standing water, are drought tolerant, and their deep roots make it easy for water to move down into the soil.

When choosing which natives are best for your rain garden, consider height, soil drainage, flowering and sun/shade tolerance. Include plants that attract birds and butterflies. Be sure to avoid invasives!

You will need both moisture tolerant (for lower, middle area) and drought tolerant plants (for higher, outside area).



**TIP:** While your natives are establishing their roots, water them about every other day for the first two to three weeks. Once they are growing and doing well, they may not require any additional watering!

