



SIMPLE STEPS TO BUILD YOUR OWN RAIN GARDEN

1. Location; Location;

Location: Your rain garden should be placed at least 10 feet from your house foundation, in a spot where you can easily direct runoff.

2. Rule-of-thumb sizing: 30% of drainage area (usually rooftop, driveway, sidewalk).

3. Form vs. Function: with your rain garden size in mind, lay out the footprint of your rain garden. Remove the sod, loosen the soil, make sure you have a level depression (a small berm may be necessary to retain water in your garden).

4. Play in the Dirt: If you have poorly drained clay soil you may want to amend the soil with sand and compost. This will help create pore space to absorb more water.

5. Selecting Plants:

- Plants should be able to tolerate seasonal or irregular flooding.
- Don't plant sun-loving plants in the shade, and don't plant shade-loving plants in the sun.
- To attract butterflies, choose native plants that bloom throughout the growing season.
- Pay attention to plant heights, leaf textures, colors, and seasonal interest.
- For more impact, group several of the same species together.

6. Don't Forget the Mulch:

Mulch helps keep out weeds, retains soil moisture, keeps soil temperatures cool in summer, adds organic matter to soil over time, reduces erosion, and helps prevent soil compaction. It's that important!

7. Just Add Water: Now you are ready for rain! Your rain garden may require watering for the first few weeks, and if there is an extended period of drought (especially in the first year).



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