




MORE DETAILS & REFERENCE MATERIALS

- **Rain Gardens: A Household Way to Improve Water Quality in Your Community**
<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/pdf/gardens.pdf>
- **Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners**
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stormwater/documents/RainGardenManual.pdf>
- **Home and Garden: Reduce Runoff with a Rain Garden**
www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/citizen/wet_garden.html
- **Rain Gardens and other ways to protect our Great Lakes:**
www.freshcoastguardians.com

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RAIN GARDEN CARE

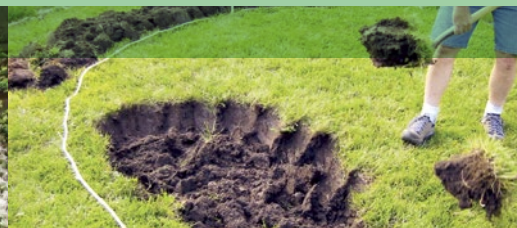
Manage Water Where it Falls



Rain gardens help reduce water pollution by collecting rain or melting snow from roofs, driveways, and yards, absorbing water into the ground naturally. Some people use only native plants in their rain gardens. Some homeowners use a combination of native and ornamental plants. It's up to you.

MAINTENANCE

SPRING	Thin crowded vegetation Add Milorganite® fertilizer and compost (early spring)
SUMMER	Watch your rain garden grow Add Milorganite® after blooming
FALL	Trim vegetation back
ANYTIME	Watch for and remove weeds before they bloom and go to seed



DESIGN & INSTALLATION

- **CALL DIGGERS HOTLINE** (1-800-242-8511) at least three business days before you plan to dig.
- If you have the room, make your garden about 1/3 of the size of your roof, locating it 10 feet or more away from your home and foundation.
- Position the garden where it can receive water from your sump pump, downspout and/or a natural low point in your yard.
- **DO NOT PLANT** your rain garden above the sanitary sewer lateral, the pipe that transports water used inside your home out to the city sewer in the street.
- Use string or spray paint to mark the area and shape of your rain garden before digging.
- Dig the garden 4 to 6 inches deep.
- Plant one plant per square foot of the garden.
- Consider plant color, height and bloom season to get the most beauty and wildlife habitat.
- Place your downspout and/or sump pump discharge into the garden. To prevent erosion, install a small area of rocks at the end of the downspout or discharge pipe.
- You can decide to trim the plants in the spring or fall; just make sure not to pull plants' roots out.
- If sized correctly, stormwater should soak into the ground within 4 to 6 hours.
- Provide water during dry periods for the first two years until the rain garden is established.