

Rain Gardens

Information targeting water quality issues from the Phase II Storm Water Management Communication Committee.

Marketing Season: Spring through Summer

How Rain Gardens Help the Environment

Rain gardens allow storm water runoff from roofs, driveways, and other impervious areas to be absorbed into the ground. This reduces erosion, water pollution and flooding.

Native plants are recommended for rain gardens because they generally don't require fertilizer and are more tolerant of one's local climate, soil, and water conditions. The plants take up excess water flowing into the rain garden. Water filters through soil layers before entering the groundwater system.

Rain gardens are beneficial for many reasons:

- Improve water quality by filtering run-off
- Provide localized flood control
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Provide interesting planting opportunities



In addition, the water in the rain garden will infiltrate the ground within a day or two, which will not allow mosquitoes to breed.

A rain garden provides a way to use and optimize any rain that falls, reducing or avoiding the need for irrigation. They also allow a homeowner or business owner to deal with excessive rainwater runoff without burdening the public storm water systems.

For more information about rain gardens, visit www.showmeraingardens.com a regional water quality effort to promote rain gardens.