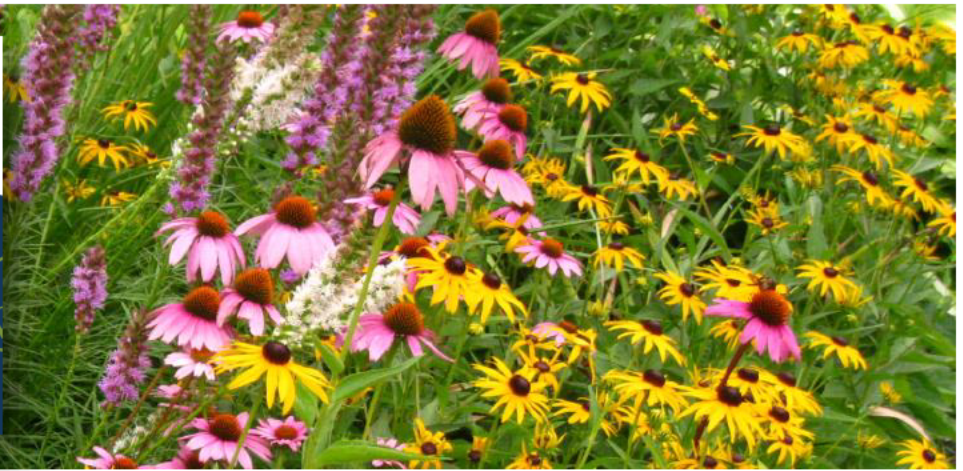


# Clean Water Works



## Collect and filter rainwater to reduce runoff on your property.

### More than just a garden

Rain gardens do more than beautify your property. These bowl-shaped gardens collect and clean runoff. Soil acts as a filter to remove some pollutants, and other pollutants are taken up by the plants. This minimizes the amount of pollution flowing from your property into our streams, lakes, and bays.

### Sizing your rain garden

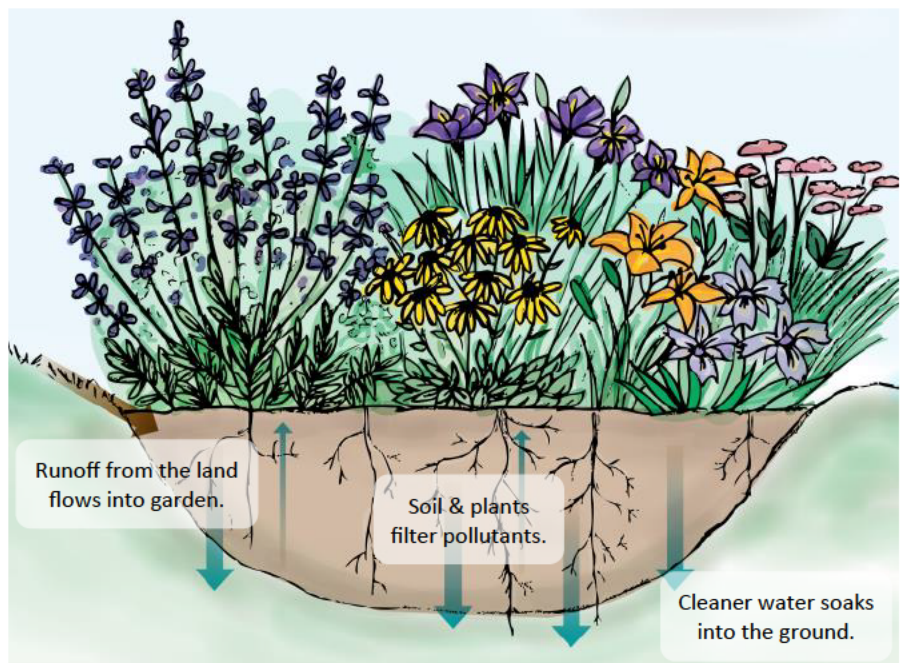
Rain gardens are most effective when they are 20-30% of the area it drains. Determine the size of the rooftop, driveway, or other area that will drain into the garden in square feet, and multiply this number by 0.3. For example, a 1000 square foot roof will require a 300 square foot garden.

### Designing your rain garden

- The garden should be bowl-shaped to allow water to pond. This may require putting a berm on one side of the garden, depending on slope.
- The sides should be gently sloping towards the center to prevent sudden drop-offs that could lead to erosion problems or walking hazards.
- Place your rain garden in a preexisting or created low spot on your property, or in a location that receives runoff.
- Select native plants that can tolerate fluctuations in soil moisture. Water tolerant plants should be planted in the center of the garden, and drought tolerant plants should be planted around the outer edge.
- Soil in rain gardens needs to allow water to soak into the ground. Sandy soils only need compost added, but clay soils should be improved with a mix of sand and compost.
- Cover bare soil with mulch.

### Materials List

- Soil amendments:
  - Compost
  - Sand
- Plants:
  - Moisture tolerant
  - Moist to dry
  - Dry tolerant
- Mulch
- Tools:
  - Shovel
  - Rake
  - Hose or watering can
  - Tape measure



# RAIN GARDENS





Source: APWA

## Installation considerations

Rain gardens should be installed using a small excavator or similar piece of equipment. Some homeowners choose to hire a contractor. Before machinery is used to create the garden, you must call Dig Safe® at 811 to ensure installation will not impact underground utilities, including electrical, water, sewer, or others.

## Choosing plants for your rain garden

When selecting plants for your garden, consider the amount of sunlight the plants will receive. Also keep in mind that the plants will need to tolerate fluctuations in soil moisture. Native plants, which are available at most local nurseries, are recommended because they are well suited to Maine's climate. Some common rain garden plants are identified below.



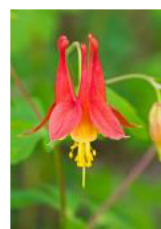
Blue Flag Iris

### Sunny garden plants

Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*)  
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Sheep Laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*)  
New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)

### Shady garden plants

Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
Solomon Seal (*Polygonatum commutatum*)  
Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)  
Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda clattoniana*)



Columbine

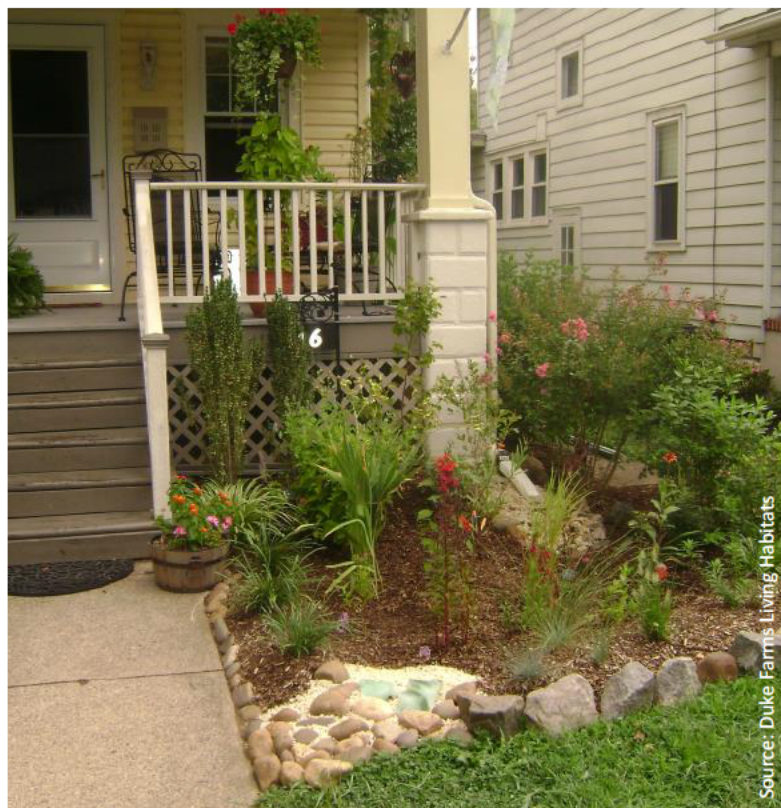
## Maintaining your rain garden

Once plants are established, your rain garden will require relatively little maintenance. Watering is important during the first growing season and during extended periods of drought. Weeding is necessary to maintain the look of the garden. As the plants grow, they may need to be divided.

There is no need to fertilize your rain garden. Using fertilizer will add unnecessary nutrients and reduce the ability for the garden to effectively remove pollution from runoff.

Questions about  
rain gardens?

Give us a call:  
207.892.4700



Source: Duke Farms Living Habitats