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WATER PROBLEMS? WATER SOLUTIONS! WHERE THE RAIN DROPS GO!

## Learning Objectives

- Identifying the proper location for water solutions
- Understanding the basics
- Designing for form, function, and beauty
- Installation
- Management and Care



# Problems....

- What constitutes a problem?
  - How wet?
  - How long?
  - Soil consistency
  - Temporary/Long Term
    - Grading
    - Irrigation
    - Grey or Green

Use



# Soil Testing

-Soil infiltration Test

Soil

-18" deep hole
-Fill with water- let it drain completely over 6-18/24 hours (amend soils)less than 6- typically functional more than 18/24-try again!)
-Refill and record:
Infiltration rate= the rate fall of the water in the hole/time= inches/hour
-Use a ruler and measure the rate at which the water drains- divide by the amount of time
-Standards:

-Dig a hole and watch how fast the water stays, flows, or goes!

I >or equal to 0.5 inches/hour- site will support I< or + 0.5 inches/hour then under drain, or soil amendment are needed or a different location

-Clay can drain! -Compensate -Go big or go home -Rough it up (new construction) - Compaction

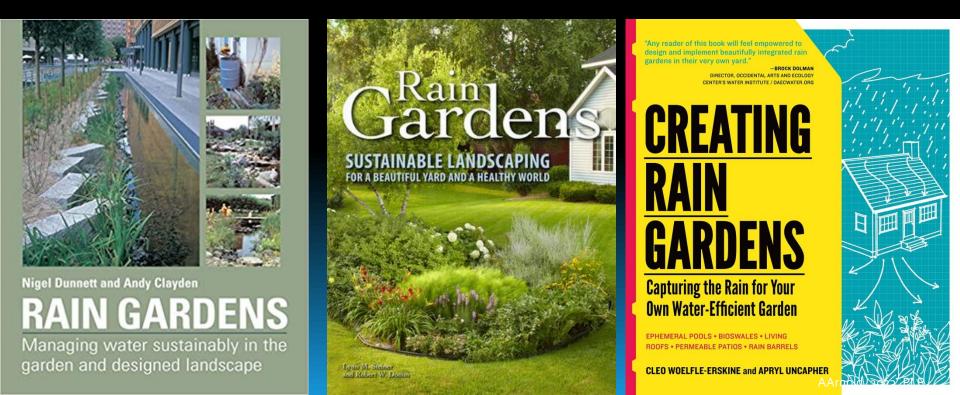
# Identifying and Utilizing

- Water, Soil, Time
  - Don't put a band aid on it!
  - Grow water loving plants
  - Add compost
  - Green Infrastructure or Grey!
    - Rain Garden Construction
    - French Drain or Dry Well or Drain Tile
    - Give in and create a bog or pond!

## Smarter Not Harder....

-Use your resources... (Dunnett/Clayden-Woelfle-Erskine/Uncapher-Steiner/Domm)

- -Look at examples/case studies
- -Utilize others with skill (may include your kids!)
- -Make it fun and solve a problem!



## Identifying the Proper Location

-Collect as much impervious surface water as possible
-Best areas are where water drains but doesn't hold
-Minimum 10-15' away from your home
-Consider location of trees, utilities, easements, setbacks, understanding soil and the groundwater table

- Consider the world around you- you are not an island!



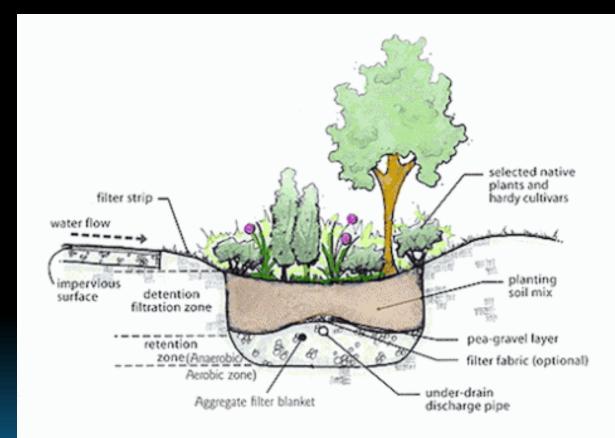
## Understanding the Basics

Goals

- -Water
- -Flower
- -Use
- -Function

### Water

- Groundwater Table
- Surface Runoff
- Surface Cover



## Understanding the Basics

### Location

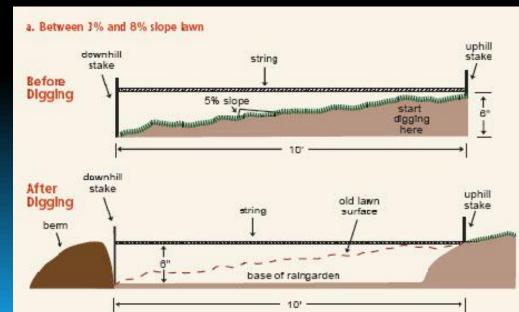
- -Trees
- -Proximity
- -Utilities

-Slope- (string and stake method)

- -4% or less 4" rain garden
- -5-7% 6" garden
- -8-12%- 8" garden



-Greater than 12%- find a different location



Goals, Water, Location, Soil.... Now what!!!

Size your garden:

Are any downspouts being considered? Does this include the sump pump? What grey infrastructure do you need? Want?
Surface- how much is being drained to this space
Surface- what do you need/want to direct to this space

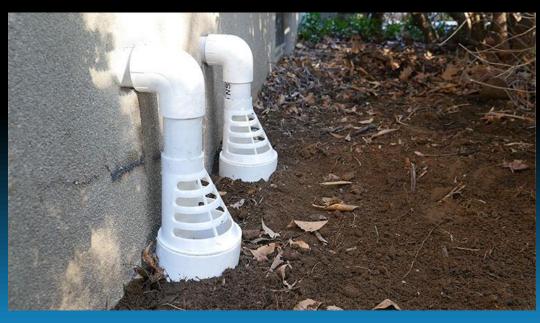
Various methods:

- Complex and detailed -Simple Calculations -Cheats and Tricks!



# Sizing your Rain Garden: Sump Pumps

- Where do the sump pumps go?
  - Freezing
  - Overflow
  - Understanding flows





# Sizing your Rain Garden: Grey

- If you need the big tools- grey infrastructure is a must!
- 90% of the time we incorporate both methods



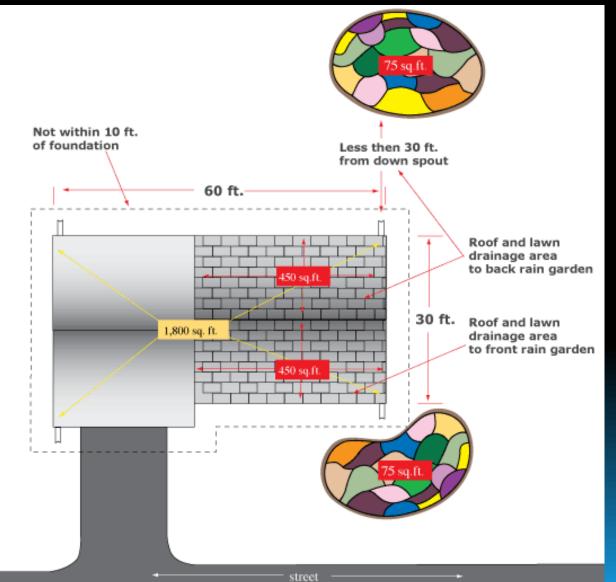
-Measure the footprint of your house. This is the area taken up by your house if looking down from above. Multiply the length by the width of the house, the answer will be square feet.

-Estimate how much of the area actually drains to the area where you want to install the garden. Typically, gutters drain to both ends of a house, so the length can be cut in half, but this is not always the case.

-If you are collecting runoff from your driveway or a section of road, just estimate the size of the impervious surface draining to the spot where you want to put the garden, and continue to step 4.

-Divide this area by 6. This calculation sizes the garden to hold one inch of runoff from the drainage area, in a garden 6 inches deep. The result is the area in square feet (or square meters) that you need for your rain garden. See the example below.

-You can make the garden and shape you like, as long as it is roughly the size that you calculated above. Ovals or kidney-shaped gardens tend to look nicer than square or rectangular gardens, but it's up to you.





### Sizing Map

Rain Gardens Home	Back to Siting & Sizing   Soil Drainage Map   Sizing Map						
Rain Gardens 101	Use this map to determine the size rain garden you need to effectively absorb the runoff from your roof, parking area, or other hard surface.						
Siting & Sizing	1. Enter your address in the "Find address or place" box below to locate your property.						
Design & Installation	<ol> <li>Zoom into the portion of your property that will drain into the rain garden.</li> <li>Click around the perimeter of your roof/parking area that will drain into the rain garden.</li> </ol>						
Plants	<ol><li>Click on the "Calculate Area" button below the map to find the drawing's area and the suggested rain garden size.</li></ol>						
Maintenance	Hint: You can clear the drawing by clicking the "Clear Map" button.						
Cost Calculator	Note: This calculation is based on absorbing the runoff from a 1 inch storm.						
	Find address or place: Search						



https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/sizemap.htm

AArnold 2023 PLP

#### What size garden do I need?

Before using our garden calculator below, read these guidelines to get you started. The size of your garden is determined by a number of variables. Some of these are established by the conditions of your vard (such as soil type and vard slope), while others are determined by you (such as amount of roof top to be addressed or rainfall to prepare for). Enter information for the four items across the top (surface area, downspouts, soil type, and slope) then slide the rain gauge up and down to see how rainfall capacity influences the size and cost of your garden.





Most houses are square or you the surface area that collects water. If you have an unusually square footage and enter it directly of connections. here

Most roofs are symmetrical so you Soil type determines how quickly rectangular so measuring the length can enter the number of downspouts water is absorbed into the ground. and width of your house will give attached to the surface area that Most soil in Western PA has a high you just measured. All values are per clay content, we can help you downspout — if connecting more determine your soil type. shaped house or are just connecting than one downspout to the garden, a portion of an area, calculate the multiply garden size by total number

Yard slope determines how deep your garden is. Find the slope of your yard.

### http://raingardenalliance.org/right/calculator

#### AArnold 2023 PLP

-Shape

- -Utilize the lay of the land
- -Any free form shape- can be a swale!
- -Protect trees
- -Better to size larger than smaller
- Fit will existing landscape (what is your landscape style?)
- -How will it be viewed (one sided, multiple sides?)

-Remember where you want your water to flow



-Excavate soil- Loose soils that offer filtration

-Typical mix- 50-60% Sand/20-30% Topsoil- low clay/ 20-30Compost or 30/30/30!

-Utilize excavated soil to 'regrade' area to assist in rain garden form

- -Cover- gravel or mulch:
  - -Erosion Control
  - -Traps and holds moisture

-May need reinforcements (select stones- especially at downspouts

or slopes)

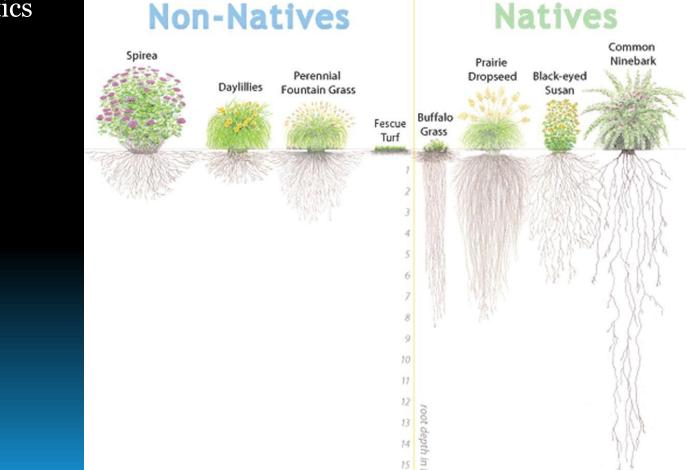


#### Wetland Indicator Status Codes

DRYAlmost never occurs in a wetlandMODERATEOccurs in wetlands and non-wetlandsWETAlways occurs in a wetland



- -Plants- the fun part!: -Wetland Edge plants -Sun/Partial/Shade
  - -Aesthetics -Goals



Sample Rain Garden Plants



incarnata

Zizia

aurea

Prairie Blazina Star

Liatris

pychostachya

Showy Black-Eved

Susan

Rudbeckia fulgida var

speciosa



Golden Alexanders Great Blue Lobelia



Swamp Milkweed Marsh Blazing Star White Turtlehead Asclepias Liatris spicata

Lobela

siphiltica

Foxglove

Beardongue

Penstemon

digitalis

Prairie Dropseed

Sporobolus

heterolepis

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

p (630) 428-4500 f (630) 428-4599 www.theconservationfoundation.org

We save land. We save rivers 10 s 404 Knoch Knolls Road Naperville, Illinois, 60565

Chelone glabra

Whorled Milkweed

Asclepias

verticilliata

Zigzag Goldenrod

Solidago

flexicaulis

Wild Columbine

Aquilegia

conadensis



Wild Geranium Geranium maculatum

bicknelli

Oval Sedge

Carex



Queen of the Prairie Jack-n-the-Publit Arisaema Filipendula rubra triphyllum

Eastern Star Sedge Carex

Brown Fox Sedge

Carex

vulpinoidea

radiata

Bee Balm Monarda fistulosa

Woodland Phlox

Phlox

divaricata

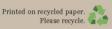
Purple Coneflower Penn Sedge Echinacea Carex purpurea pensylvanica



False Solomons Seal Blue Flag iris Maianthemum Iris virginica shrevei racemosum

Adapted from design courtesy of

Applied Ecological Services, Inc.



CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Build your own

We save land. We save rivers.

# Conservation **(***<i>O*Home)

Learn how to use native plants to solve water problems on your property!

### Rain Garden Design

### What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is simply a shallow depression in your vard that's planted with native wildflowers and grasses that are able to thrive in changing soil moisture. Its purpose is to gather, filter and infiltrate rainwater into the ground (restoring the aquifer), provide habitat for wildlife, and deliver enjoyment to its owner (that's you!)

Rain gardens are gaining popularity for 3 reasons:

1 Rain gardens make good use of the rainwater; the native plants filter and clean water as it soaks into the ground. By

keeping runoff out of storm drains, rain gardens also help protect water quality in local lakes and streams and restore the aquifer, our underground water Supply.

2 Rain gardens are planted with beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance native perennial plants and native shrubs.

3 Rain gardens provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects, such as mosquito-devouring dragonfies!

#### Simple Construction

It's easy! Just follow these easy steps:

1 Dia a shallow depression with a level bottom. The size depends on your drainage needs. A good quesstimate is 20% of the square feet of your drain area for sandy soil, 30% for loam, and 40-50% for clay.

Pick a naturally low spot in your yard at least 10ft from your house. Full sun is best. Try to choose a spot with at least halfday sunlight. Do not put the rain garden in the area of a septic field

A depression of about 2-6 inches is fine. Slope the sides gradually firom the edge to the level bottom. For heavy clay soils, dig the rain aarden deeper or mix topsoil with compost to improve drainage

2 Direct your downspout or sump pump outlet to your rain garden, either by digging a shallow swale-a linear depression de-signed to channel water-or by routing it through a buried 4" pipe. Always plan that the overflow location is lower than where the water enters.

3 Plant your rain garden with native plants appropriate for your soil type and sun/shade conditions.

4 If it doesn't rain, keep the soil moist but not wet for the first arowing season until plants are well-established.

Once your native rain garden plants are established, standard garden maintenance is all that is required.



#### Too much of a good thing

During heavy rains, your garden may overflow. Make sure this overflow follows the drainage pattern originally designed for your lot. Test this by filling your depression with a garden house and watching the overflow. If needed dia a shallow swale to direct overflow toward the street or other downhill areas away from buildings. It should not drain to your neighbors property.

#### True Natives vs. Cultivars

We recommend using true natives which are adapted to survive under our local conditions (rainfall, drought, and temperature fluctuations) and support wildlife who are dependent on plants for their food and development. Cultivars have been artificially cloned or bred for specific characteristics such as flower color and may not function as well as the true native. The name of the plant gives a clue if it's a pure native; if the botanical name is followed by a common name in single auotation marks then it is a cuttivar (e.g. Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan'). Purchasing from well-respected growers/nurseries is a dependable strategy for getting the right plants.



- · Weed biweekly until native plants are established.
- Avoid using lawn fertilizers near the rain garden. They stimulate weeds without benefitting plants.

Dan't worry about mosaultoes. A properly constructed rain garden will not hold water long enough for mosquitoes to reproduce and it attracts dragonflies, sivalows, and other controls to keep them in check.

· Place natural rocks, bird houses, a bench or garden ornaments in and around your rain garden. Have fun with this!

Include native sedges and grasses to help physically support taller species.

#### The Conservation Foundation...

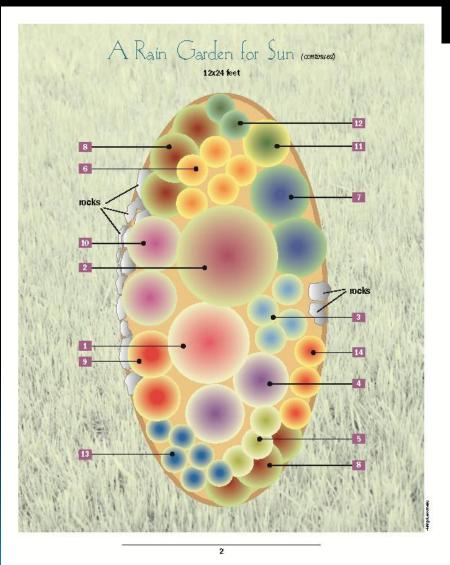
is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in Northeast Ilinois.

Established in 1972, we work closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land-use planners, park districts, and forest preserves. We have helped protect more than 30,000 acres of open space

The Conservation Foundation has more than 5,000 donors and members, and 500 volunteers.

Our main office is at the McDonald Farm in Naperville, IL., with another at Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, IL. For more information, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org

Swamp Milloweed	Asclepias incarnata	Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica		
Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica	Wild Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis		
Marsh Blazing Star	Liatris spicata	Woodland Philox	Phlox divaricata		
White Turtlehead	Chelone glabra	Wild Ginger	Asarum canadense		
Blue Flag Iris	lris virginica shrevei	Shooting Star	Dodecatheon Meado		
Golden Alexanders	Zizea aurea	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Arisaema triphyllum		
Sedges (	(Zone A)	Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum		
Brown Fox Sedge Carex vulpinoidea		Sedges			
Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumensis	Penn Sedge	Carex pensylvanica		
		Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumene		



### A Rain Garden for Sun communed











### (See the plant diagram on page 2.)

I Astilbes (Astilbe), which are long-lived, moisture-loving perennials that will thrive in the sunny rain garden if planted where they get some afternoon shade from taller shrubs nearby. They bloom in summer and are available in pinks, reds, purple, and white I to 3 feet tall; Zones 3 to 8. Three plants.

Daylilles (Hemerocallis), which may not be natives but can. keep your rain garden in bloom over a long season if you plant early, midseason, and late varieties. Assorted heights and a rainbow of colors are available. Zones 4 to 11. Five plants.

#### For the drier outer edge ....

Blueherries (Vaccinium), whether highbush (up to 5 feet tall) or lowbush (up to 2 feet tall) varieties, which add both a flowering shrub and an edible fruit to your landscape. Zones 3 to 8. Two plants.

American cranberry (Vaccinium macrocarpon), which is a pretty, ground-covering shrub that also bears edible fruit. About 6 inches tall; Zones 2 to 7. Six plants.

Bee haim (Monarda), which in summer features brilliant-red pink, or white flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Look for a mildew-resistant variety. 3 feet tall and wide; Zones 3 to 9. Two plants.

10 New England aster (Aster novae angliae), which will carry the show into fall with its bright, violet-purple flowers. It gets quite tall but can be aut back to half its height in June to create a shorter and bushier plant, if desired. Up to 6 feet tall; Zones 4 to 8. Two plants.

111 Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale), which beam sunny yellow flowers in late summer. It is highly adaptable to wet or dry soil. 3 to 5 feet tall; Zones 4 to 8. One plant

11 Meadow anenone (Anemone canaden sis), which is deer-resistant and salt-tolerant. This tough little perennial bears pure-white blossoms in late spring. 2 feet tall; Zones 2 to 9. Two plants.

13 Blue cardinal flower (Lobelia siphilitica), which has spikes of true blue flowers in late summer 2 to 4 feet tall; Zones 5 to 9. Six plants.

11 Butter By weed (Asclepias tuberosa), which features orange blossoms that provide excellent nectar for butterflies. In addition, the plants are an important larval food for monarch butterflies 2 to 3 feet tall; Zones 4 to 9. Three plants.

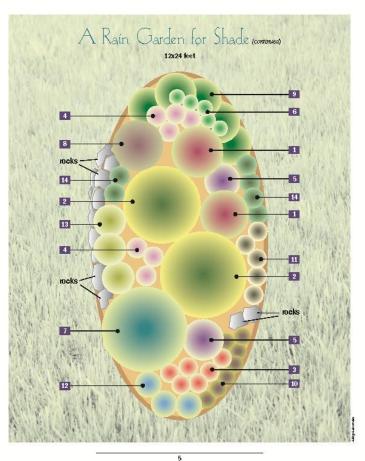














### A Rain Garden for Shade

Placing a rain garden in full shade is not recommended; partial shade is best. (See the plant diagram on page 5.)

#### in the contor, plant ....



I Rhododendrons, especially cold-hardy native rhodora (Rhododendton canadense), which like damp soil and partial sun They will bloom profusely in the spring. 2 to 4 feet tall and wide; Zones 3 to 6. Two plants.

Winterberry (lex verticillata), which needs one male plant to act as a pollinator, along with the females, if you want a crop of colorful red berries. For this garden size, choose from dwarf cultivars. 3 to 5 feet tall; Zones 3 to 9. Two plants.

💵 Cardinal Nower (Lobelia cardinalis), which grows well in sun or partial shade. It has rich red flowers in late summer 2 to 3 feet tall; Zones 3 to 9. Six plants.

Pink tur lehead (Chelone Iyonii), which is a trouble-free perennial that doesn' to early fall. 2 to 4 fe

5 Purple meadow n damp spot in partial purple-tinged white | 5 to 9. Two plants.

5 Wild columbines ( source of nectar for } draw them to your n and yellow blossoms Five plants.

For the drier oute



feet tall and wide; Zo Dvarf fothergilla white flowers that as The foliage becomes







(See the plant diagram on page 5.)

Common bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi), which is a rugged evergreen ground cover in the heath family. It has white flowers in spring and red berries in late summer. 3 to 8 inches tall, spreading to between 2 and 4 feet wide; Zones 2 to 6. Five plants

10 Coral bells (Heuchera san duinea), which are colorful foliage plants that send up tall spikes of tiny red, pink, or white flowers in late spring. 6 to 12 inches high and wide; Zones 3 to 8. Seven plants.

11 Foam lower (Tiarella conditolia), which is a deer-resistant plant with white flowers in spring. (Heuchera and Tiarella have been crossed to create a hybrid genus called Heucherella which. combines the gorgeous foliage of heacheras with the showy flowers of tiaxellas-look for this one!) 5 to 12 inches tall: Zones 3 to 7. Five plants.

12 Jacoh's ladder (Polemonium reptans), which is a low-growing spreading perennial with clusters of light-blue flowers. 8 to 12 inches tall; Zones 3 to 8 Three plants.

13 Ziezze coldenrod (Solidado flexicaulis), which beam colden yellow flowers in the fall. 2 feet tall and wide; Zones 3 to 8. Three plants.

Spotted geranium (Geranium maculatum), which has dainty. pinkish-purple flowers that bloom above the mound of lobed leaves in the spring and often again in the fall. It, 2 feet tells Tones 4 to 8 Six plants







tall and wide; Zones

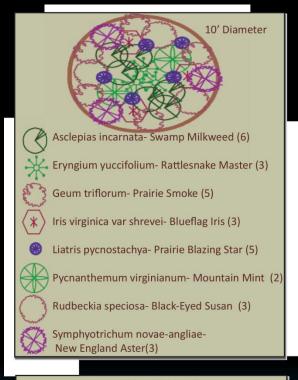












### **STAR PERFORMERS**

No matter the size- here are some pollinator favorites!

#### Happy Planting!





96 Species of

Pollinators

Pycnanthemum virginianum

hemum Ru

313 Species of Pollinators Rudbeckia speciosa

106 Species of Pollinators

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Pollinators</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Bloom Time</u>	<u>Bloom Color</u>	<u>Sun</u>	Soil
1. Juncus effusus 2. Eutrochium maculatum 3. Chelone glabra	Common Rush Spotted Joe Pye Weed Turtlehead	6 Species 65 Species 8 Species	2' 5' 5'	June-Aug June-Sept July-Sept	n/a Pink White	\$ \$ \$	Moderate-Wet Wet Wet
4. Rudbeckia fulgida 5. Veronicastrum virginicum 6. Liatris spicata 7. Carex Iurida 8. Carex muskingumensis	Orange Coneflower Culver's Root Marsh Blazingstar Sallow Sedge Palm Sedge	106 Species 59 Species 60 Species 12 Species 18 Species	5' 5'	July-Sept June-Aug July-Sept May-Aug June-July	Yellow White Violet n/a n/a	۲ ۲ ۲ All All	Moderate Moderate Moderate-Wet Wet Moderate
9. Sporobolus heterolepis 10. Ruellia humilis 11. Echinacea palilida 12. Coreopsis palmata	Northern Dropseed Wild Petunia Pale Purple Coneflower Prairie Coreopsis	14 Species 20 Species 98 Species 147 Species		Aug-Oct June-Aug June-Aug June-Aug	Gold/Brown Violet Lavender Yellow	0 0 0 0 0	Moderate-Dry Moderate-Dry Moderate-Dry Moderate-Dry

## Installation- Dreams to Reality!

-Excavate

-Remember to layout out stakes

-Figure out your shape

-You may need a berm or more complex basin; contour to land

-Smarter not harder!

-Hose and Yard Stick Method- understanding conveyance

-Buried Pipes- Sump Lines

-Level Basin-(keep sides around 60%)

-Outlet (need overflow!) is lower than inlet and safe from erosion (berm/stones)

-Install your grey infrastructure first- connect all pipes!

-Soil

-Enjoy!

-Add and make sure to acco

-Center- wettest plants -Sides- occasional flooding -Berm- dry!

## Management and Care

-After installation- Now What?

-Cover and Care-

-Mulch or cover first couple of years

-Plant for overlap and competition



-Check inlet/outlet for erosion and slope/level over time

-Clean downspouts and remove debris as needed

-Weeding-

-You will always have to weed (plant and plan for just a little!)

-Cutting back- spring cut backs

-Ignoring, editing, removing -Adding the details

> -Bird houses/Nesting Boxes -Benches

-Deficites

-Hummingbird Feeders -Be flexible with change -Monitor and adapt



# Final Thoughts





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## **THANK YOU!**

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## **IMAGE NOTES:**

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT FOR DIRECT LINKS AND NOTATIONS:

CONSERVATION FOUNDATION UNITED STATES BOTANIC GARDENS CREATING RAIN GARDENS- WOELFLE-ERSKINE/UNCAPHER SCIENCE NOTES UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT/NEMO RAIN GARDEN ALLIANCE TERRA LANDSCAPES NEW FAIRFIELD'S HAMLET HUB STORM WATER ALLIANCE US WATER PROOFING OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC PLANIT LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVES, LLC