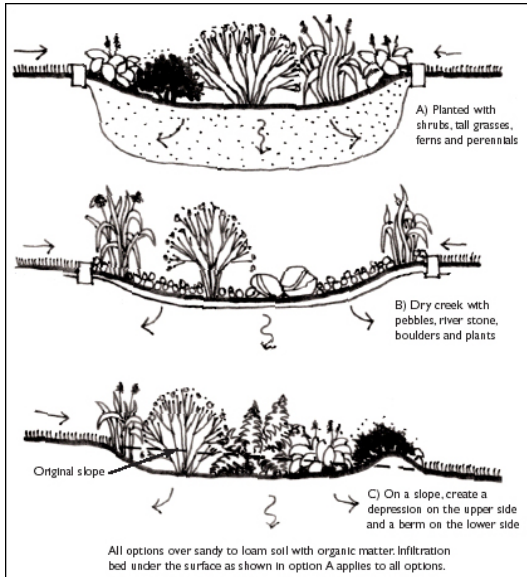


Layout Designs

Design the ponding area in a shape that is pleasing and compliments the existing landscaping.



If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletter please get on our website:
<http://www.senecaswcd.com>
Or email the SWCD office your email address

Pictures and information taken from
extensiononline@iastate.edu



Rainwater harvesting has the potential (a) to provide safe water and create economic opportunities for households and communities through increased water security; (b) to safeguard fresh water resources in water-stressed urban areas; (c) to reverse the trend of degradation of water resources and (d) to contribute to ecologically sound management of rainfall and run-off.



Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

Seneca Soil and Water Conservation

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Seneca Soil and Water Conservation District

Rainwater Harvesting

The best thing one can do when it's raining is to let it rain.

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a beautiful, landscaped garden that is planted in a slightly depressed area to collect rainwater running off the roof and lawn. The water collects in the garden and slowly percolates through the soil. By filtering the rainwater through the soil and plant roots, many of the lawn and roof chemical residues and soil particles are removed. Rain gardens -- reduce flooding by absorbing water from impervious surfaces; filter oil, grease and toxic materials before they can pollute streams, lakes and bays; help to recharge the aquifer by increasing the quantity of water that soaks into the ground; provide beneficial wildlife habitat.

Things to Consider:

There are a few things to consider before building a rain garden:

- 1) Location
- 2) Soil Type
- 3) Plant Material
- 4) Installation



Location

It is easiest to take advantage of the natural or existing drainage pattern of your property. However, do not put a rain garden where water already pools! This indicates that the soil does not drain well and a rain garden may not work properly. Also the site should be at least 10 feet from the house to prevent water from seeping into the basement.

Soil Type

Soil type is also important. A sandy soil will drain quickly, while clay soil will drain slowly and may cause flooding in moderate to heavy rains. Clay or heavily compacted soils can be improved by excavating the site a little deeper than the final depth of the garden and replacing with a sand-top-soil compost mix.

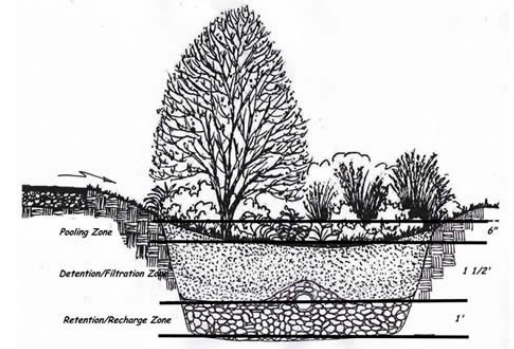
Plant Material

If the garden is in a sunny area native plants work best, because they grow well, have deep, fibrous roots, and are attractive to many wildlife species. Common species include: Sweet flag, Swamp Milkweed, Aster, Tussock sedge, Turtlehead, and many, many more. For a more complete listing of plants visit the URBAN soil and water conservation page:

<http://www.urbanwaterquality.org>.

Installation

The entire ponding area needs to be excavated, even if drainage is not a problem. The finished grade should be 4 to 6 inches below the surrounding area. The depression collects and holds the rainwater while it percolates through the soil. To prevent heavy rains from washing out the opposite site of the garden, construct a small berm along the backside. The soil that was excavated can be used to build the berm. **REMEMBER:** Always call local Ohio Utilities Protection service, 48 hours before you dig!



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