

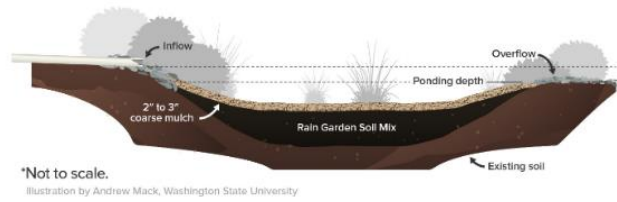
Raingardens

What is a raingarden?

A rain garden is a landscaped area that collects, absorbs, and filters stormwater runoff from roof tops, driveways, patios, and other hard surfaces that don't allow water to soak in. They are shallow depressions that:

- Can be shaped and sized to fit your yard.
- Are constructed with soil mixes that allow water to soak in rapidly, treat runoff, and support plant growth.
- Can be landscaped with a variety of plants to fit the surroundings.

Typical Rain Garden



Why have a raingarden?

When it rains or snows, more water flows from these manmade hard surfaces carrying oil, fertilizers, pesticides, sediment and other pollutants downstream. Rain gardens are part of the Low Impact Development practices that work to reduce or minimize stormwater runoff into our waterways.

Not every developed area needs a raingarden.

If your site *doesn't* appear to have stormwater runoff issues, you most likely *do not* need to build a raingarden. There are other eco-friendly improvements you can make when designing your ornamental gardens, such as selecting low-water-use & low maintenance plants, selecting plants known to be favorites of pollinizing insects, and including appropriate native plants in your landscape design.

There is a lot to plan and consider when building a rain garden. It is best to review the Washinton Per the Stormwater Manual for Western Washington for more detailed information.

Rain Garden Handout for Western Washington

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1310027.pdf>

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PLANT SELECTION FOR RAINGARDENS:

Raingardens consist of three zones, from areas at the lowest point that stay moist most of the year and may retain water to areas to the area at the upper edge which can be a drier environment:

- **Zone 1:** Areas of periodic, or frequent, standing or flowing water. Zone 1 plants should also tolerate the seasonally dry summers in western Washington without extra watering (except during the initial 1-to-2-year establishment period).
- **Zone 2:** Periodically moist or saturated soils during larger storms. Plants are typically planted on the side slopes in this zone and can help to protect against erosion once established.
- **Zone 3:** Drier soils, infrequently subject to inundation or saturation. May be planted on a berm or just outside the perimeter of the rain garden. This zone can blend with the existing landscape of the site if desired.

ZONE 1

Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'	Sweet Flag
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady Fern
Blechnum spicant	Deer Fern
Carex comans 'Frosty Curls'	New Zealand Hair Sedge
Carex obnupta	Slough Sedge
Carex Testacea	Orange NZ Sedge
Cornus sanguinea	Blood Twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea	Red Twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea 'Flaviramei'	Yellow Twig Dogwood
Hesperantha coccinea	Crimson Flag

Iris Douglasiana	Douglas Iris
Iris tenax	Oregon Iris
Juncus ssp	Rush
Molinia caerulea	Moor Grass
Myrica gale	Sweet Gale
Physocarpus capitalus	Pacific Ninebark
Salix purpurea 'Nana'	Dwf Blue Arctic Willow
Sambucus nigra 'Black Lace'	Black Lace Elderberry
Symphotrichum subspicatum	Douglas Aster
Taxodium distichum 'Peve Minaret'	Dwarf Bald Cypress

ZONE TWO:

Acer circinatum	Vine Maple
Amerlanchier alnifolia	Western Serviceberry
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Kinnikinnick
Asarum caudatum	Wild Ginger
Carex oshimensis 'Evergold'	Japanese Sedge
Deschampsia cespitosa 'Northern Lights'	Tufted Hair Grass
Dicentra Formosa	Western Bleeding Heart
Erigeron speciosus	Showy Fleabane
Fragaria chiloensis	Coastal Strawberry
Gaultheria shallon	Salal
Gaura lindheimeri	Wand Flower
Geum	Avens
Hemerocallis	Daylily
Heuchera	Coral Bells
Hyssop officinalis	Hyssop

Liatris	Gayfeather
Lonicera pileata	Boxwood Honeysuckle
Mahonia ssp	Oregon Grape
Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'	Dwf Japanese Silver Grass
Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'	Switch Grass varieties
Philadelphus lewisii	Mock Orange
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark
Polystichum munitum	Western Sword Fern
Ribes sanguineum	Red Flowering Current
Spirea japonica 'Magic Carpet'	Japanese Spirea, dwarf
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry
Symphyotrichum chilense	Pacific Aster
Thuja plicata 'Whipcord'	Dwf Western Red Cedar

ZONE THREE:

Acer palmatum 'Sango Kaku'	Coral Bark Maple
Achillea	Yarrow
Arbutus unedo 'Compacta'	Dwf Strawberry Tree
Betula ssp	Birch
Caryopteris clandonensis	Blue Mist
Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula'	Weeping AK Yellow Cedar
Cornus mas	Cornelian Cherry
Crataegus X lavalleyi	Lavalle Hawthorn
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower
Echinops	Globe Thistle
Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'	Blue Fescue
Geranium macrorrhizum	Hardy Geranium
Hebe	Hebe

Helianthemum nummularium	Sunrose
Helictotrichon sempervirens	Blue Oat Grass
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf Hydrangea
Lavendula	Lavender
Lupinus	Lupine
Nepeta X faassenii	Catmint
Ophiopogon planiscarpus	Black Mondo Grass
Parrotia persica 'Vanessa'	Persian Ironwood
Pennisetum alopcuriodes 'Hameln'	Fountain Grass
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian Sage
Pinus mugo mugo	Dwf Mugo Pine
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-Eyed Susan
Vaccinium ovatum	Evergreen Huckleberry

For a more complete list of plant suggestions, one very good resource is the Pierce County Rain Garden Handbook:

Selected Plants for Rain Gardens in Western Washington

https://pierccd.org/DocumentCenter/View/3060/RainGardenHandbook_Plants



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