



# What is a Rain Garden?



Simple rain gardens are generally 3- to 6-inch deep, saucer-shaped depressions that are planted with moisture-loving native plants. Shaping the land and planting gardens in shallow swales imitates nature by creating contours throughout the landscape. This provides flood control, groundwater recharge, and water-cooling benefits, while the plants, soil, and associated microorganisms remove many types of pollutants—such as pesticides, fertilizer, and motor oil—from stormwater runoff.



Properly designed and maintained, rain gardens are attractive landscaping features that function like a formal garden, informal moist meadow, or light forest ecosystem. They can look as informal or as formal as you like. While rain garden dimensions vary, remember, *any size rain garden is better than no rain garden.*

## You Can Make A Difference!

- Install rain barrels and rain gardens in your yard.
- Replace pavement with porous surfaces.
- Learn more about stormwater runoff at [RainScaping.org](http://RainScaping.org).
- Spread the word about RainScaping in your neighborhood.

## Home Rain Gardens—Overhead View

