

RAINGARDENS

*Beautify your lawn...
Naturally!*



Did you know?

In Scott County, residents can receive FREE technical assistance & financial incentives for installing raingardens!

What is a Raingarden?

Raingardens are designed to catch rainwater runoff from your roof, driveway, walkway, parking lot, and lawn. They provide beautiful and colorful accents while attracting wildlife and pollinators. Unlike a typical vegetable or flower garden, a raingarden is intended to improve water quality of nearby creeks, streams, lakes and rivers. The deep-rooted native plants in raingardens tolerate being partially flooded on occasion. And the best part is there is little maintenance after establishment. Other than simple weeding and watering, raingardens don't require a lot of attention, but add life and variety to your landscape.

Benefits of Raingardens...

- Catch rainwater runoff
- Tolerate flooding and drought
- Provide a colorful landscape
- Attract wildlife habitat
- Slow stormwater runoff
- Help prevent erosion
- Remove pollutants
- Plants grow unique, deep roots
- Improve water quality

Workshop Sponsors



More Resources on Raingardens...

The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens — Rusty Schmidt, David Dods and Dan Shaw (2007)

Raingarden Installation Video by Metro Blooms: http://www.metroblooms.org/raingarden_video.php

How-To Information from Blue Thumb "Planting for Clean Water" website: <http://bluethumb.org/raingardens/bluethumb.org>

If you know of someone who wants to register for our 2016 workshops, call (952) 492-5425.

Raingarden Construction

Planning and Design

- Attend a Blue Thumb workshop!
 - Learn how to locate, size and design your raingarden
- Select your plant package (optional):
 - Sunny Pollinator Garden (all types of soil)
 - Sunny Garden (well-drained soil)
 - Shady Garden (all types of soil)
 - Mixed Sunny Garden (saturated soil)
- Order your plants!
 - Orders and payment are due Friday, May 20, 2016.
- Complete cost-share application form.
 - Take a “before” photo to include with your application.
 - Submit your application before starting your project.



Site Preparation (May/June)

- Call Gopher One (800-252-1166) to locate utilities (no charge for service)
 - Gopher One Ticket Number: _____ Date: _____
- Call your City/Township to make sure your raingarden is not in a right-of-way
 - Confirmation Date: _____ By: _____
- Use a long rope or hose to designate the outline of your proposed raingarden.
- Call your contact to set up a visit **BEFORE** planting. A trained conservationist will verify inlet, outlet and raingarden dimensions with you.
 - First Site Visit Date: _____ By: _____
- Remove the sod, then dig the basin (plan a good week for this part of the project)
 - Dig 3 inches deeper than the indicated design depth, which allows for up to 3 inches of compost.
 - Use the soil you dug out to build a berm on one side to hold water.
- Till the soil in the bottom of the raingarden to eliminate possible soil compaction.
- Spread compost, then till and work compost into a depth of 6 to 12 inches.
- Call your contact to schedule a final inspection before installing plants.
 - Final Inspection Date: _____ By: _____



Plant Installation: Pick up Friday, June 3, & Saturday, June 4 (noted on order form)

- Pick up and install raingarden plants following correct zones and spacing specifications. Lay them out to envision a spacing plan.
- Mulch the basin with 3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch. Weed-control fabric is discouraged and can make future maintenance more difficult.
- Send “after” photos of raingardens from all angles to your contacts email address.



Raingarden Maintenance

After the inspection, we'll provide you with a suggested maintenance schedule to keep your raingarden functioning & beautiful for years to come!

Design Worksheet (Standard Method)

Calculate Raingarden Size

1) Measure your roof size

Length: _____ feet

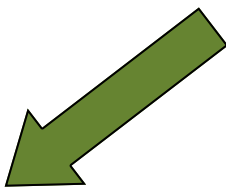
Width: _____ feet



2) Calculate Square Footage of Roof

Multiply roof length by width:

Length:	_____	Feet
X Width:	_____	Feet
=	_____	Total Square Feet



3) Calculate the Raingarden Size

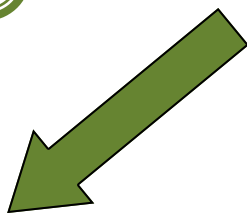
Divide Total Square Feet of roof by 6:

_____	Total Square Feet
/	_____
	6
=	_____
	Raingarden Square Feet



4) Round to Nearest Standard Size

- 150 Square Feet
- 300 Square Feet
- 450 Square Feet



Calculate Materials Needed

5) Calculate Compost and Mulch needed

Divide Standard Size by 108:

_____	Standard Size
/	_____
	108
=	_____
	Cubic Yards <u>each</u> of Mulch and Compost

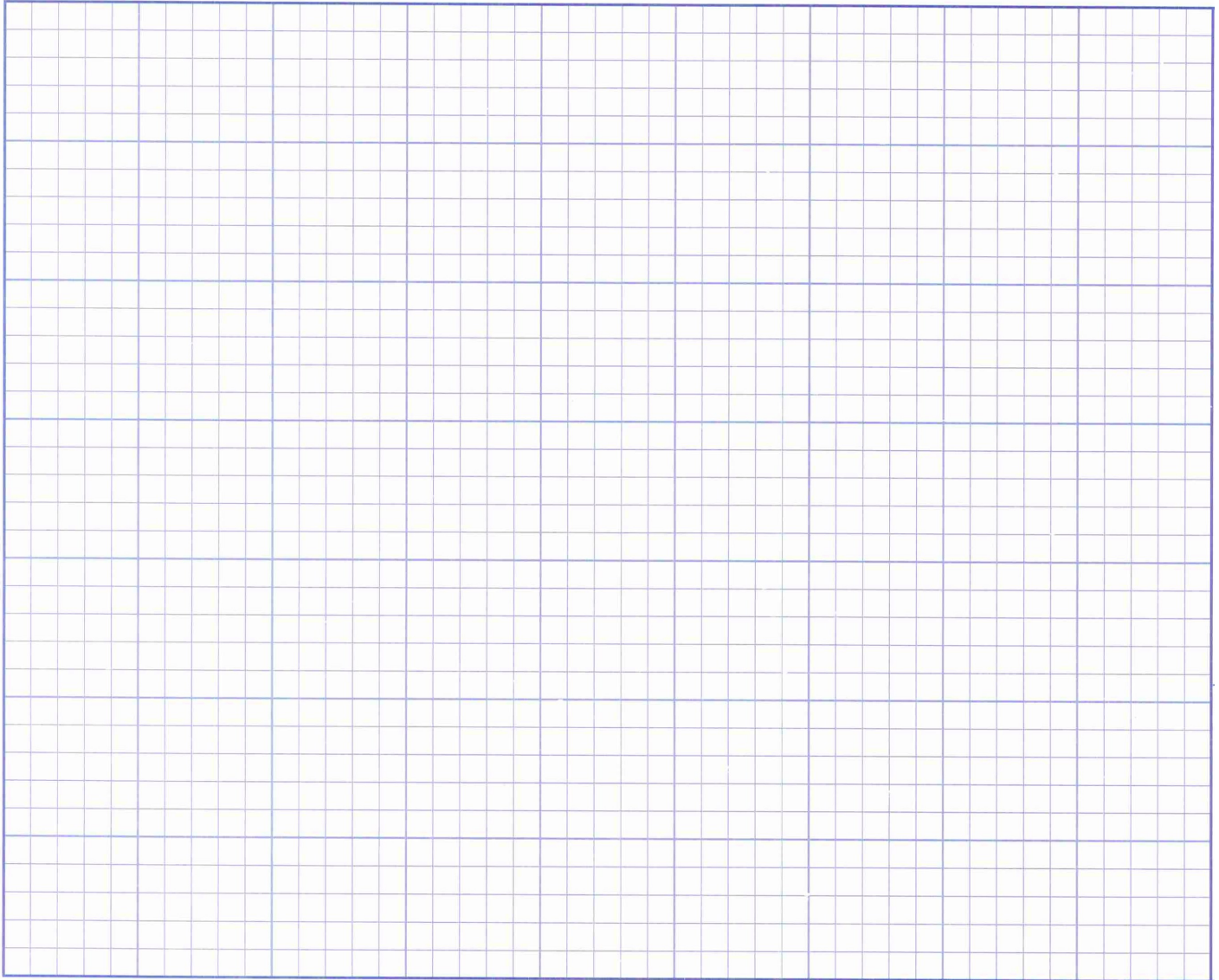


6) Select your Plant Package

- Bird and Butterfly Garden
- Mixed Sunny Garden
- Mixed Shade Garden
- Native Prairie Garden
- Shrub Garden

Sketch Your Raingarden...

Your Name and Address



NOTES:

- Draw to scale using grid (e.g. 1 cell = 1 feet; 1 cell = 2 feet)
- Remember to include planting zones

Find out where rainwater is flowing on your property.