

Create RAIN GARDENS in landscape

"Some studies show that 50% of pollutants come from yard care, yard waste and chemical pollution from household activities." www.CheasapeakeEcologyCenter.org

Ideally all rainwater will stay on site by use of rain gardens, rain barrels, and ponds.

WHY? To prevent storm water runoff that pollutes rivers and streams

- Flood Control
- Groundwater recharge and replenishment
- Water cooling
- Removal of many types of pollutants
- Wildlife oasis

WHERE? To be located between source of runoff and runoff destination

- 10 feet from house and away from septic drain fields
- Away from large trees to avoid damage of roots
- Below or near a rainspout
- In low areas
- Near impermeable areas (driveway, street, sidewalk)

HOW? To imitate nature with your rain garden

- Determine where run-off occurs during a rain storm.
- Use or create depressions in landscape.
- Create contours in landscape to allow rainwater to soak into ground.
- Channel water to several areas for rain gardens.
 - Use stone beds in channels from large impermeable areas or steep slopes.
- Make flat bottomed, saucer-shaped depressions with slightly slanted edges.
 - As shallow as 3" to 6" or deeper
 - Any size--as large as possible
- If clay prevents water to absorb within several hours in rain garden, amend soil.
 - Mix top soil and compost.
 - Work into soil.
 - Continue to add compost around plants.
(See how to make your own compost)
- Remove existing sod by covering with black plastic for several weeks and then till soil.
- For steep slopes, create terraces, using coconut fiber or shredded wood mulch berms that will become earthen berms.

REMEMBER: "RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE"

(Tip: Use odd number of plants)

Plant in spring or fall.

For easy maintenance, choose naturalistic style.

Integrate into existing landscape.

Select native plants, (for list of nurseries go to

www.mdflora.org/publications/nurseries.html)

Easy on environment

Low maintenance

Deep and extensive root systems

Tolerant of draught conditions

Consider the following:

Size--check space for mature plant

Shape

Leaf appearance

Color--time of year and length of bloom

Evergreen or deciduous plants

Wildlife value—water, shelter, and space

Amount of light and moisture needed

Wide variety of plants

PLAN FOR LONG TERM AND MAINTENANCE

FOR FIRST YEAR

Water to establish plants.

Use 3" - 5" of organic coarse, fibrous shredded wood chips to control weeds.

FOLLOWING SEASONS

Thin overgrown plants.

Transplant for space.

Cut back dead vegetation in spring.

Sources: "Rainscaping with Rain Gardens, www.ChesapeakeEcologyCenter.org
"Environmental Design Program," Maryland Department of Natural Resources, www.dnr.state.md.us/ed/editorials/RainGarden-Final.pdf