

Good Rain Garden Plants



Creeping Oregon Grape
Mahonia nervosa



Douglas Aster
Aster subspicatus



Oregon Iris
Iris tenax



Tufted Hair-grass
Deschamsia cespitosa



Woodland Strawberry
Fragaria vesca



Fringecup
Tellima grandiflora



Salal
Gaultheria shallon



Western Red Columbine
Aquilegia formosa



Common Camas
Cammasia quamash



Red Osier Dogwood
Cornus sericea



Stream Violet
Viola glabella



Cardwell's Penstemon
Penstemon cardwellii



Pacific Rush
Juncus effusus
var. *pacificus*



Northwest Cinquefoil
Potentilla gracilis



Sword Fern
Polystichum munitum



Western Bleeding Heart
Dicentra formosa



Don't use these plants:

These plants are listed on the city of Portland's Nuisance plant list. See www.emswcd.org for a full list.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Bamboo | Bishop's Weed | Butterfly Bush |
| Chameleon Plant | Creeping Jenny | European Soft Rush |
| Horsetail | Ivy | Japanese Knotweed |
| Money Plant | Vinca | Yellow-flag Iris |

Learn More

Attend one of our free rain garden workshops.

For more information about rain gardens or to sign up for a workshop, please visit our website.

Would your group like a rain garden, stormwater, or other low impact development presentation? Please contact Candace Stoughton for assistance at candace@emswcd.org or 503-222-7645.

Please keep in mind

This brochure is intended to provide general guidance. Rain gardens are not appropriate for every site. Each property is unique and some have complicating factors that may require hiring a professional. EMSWCD, its staff and contractors are not responsible for any loss or damage resulting from the installation of a rain garden.

About EMSWCD

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is a unit of local government serving the residents and landowners of Multnomah County east of the Willamette River. We use a cooperative, non-regulatory approach to preserve soil and keep the water clean.



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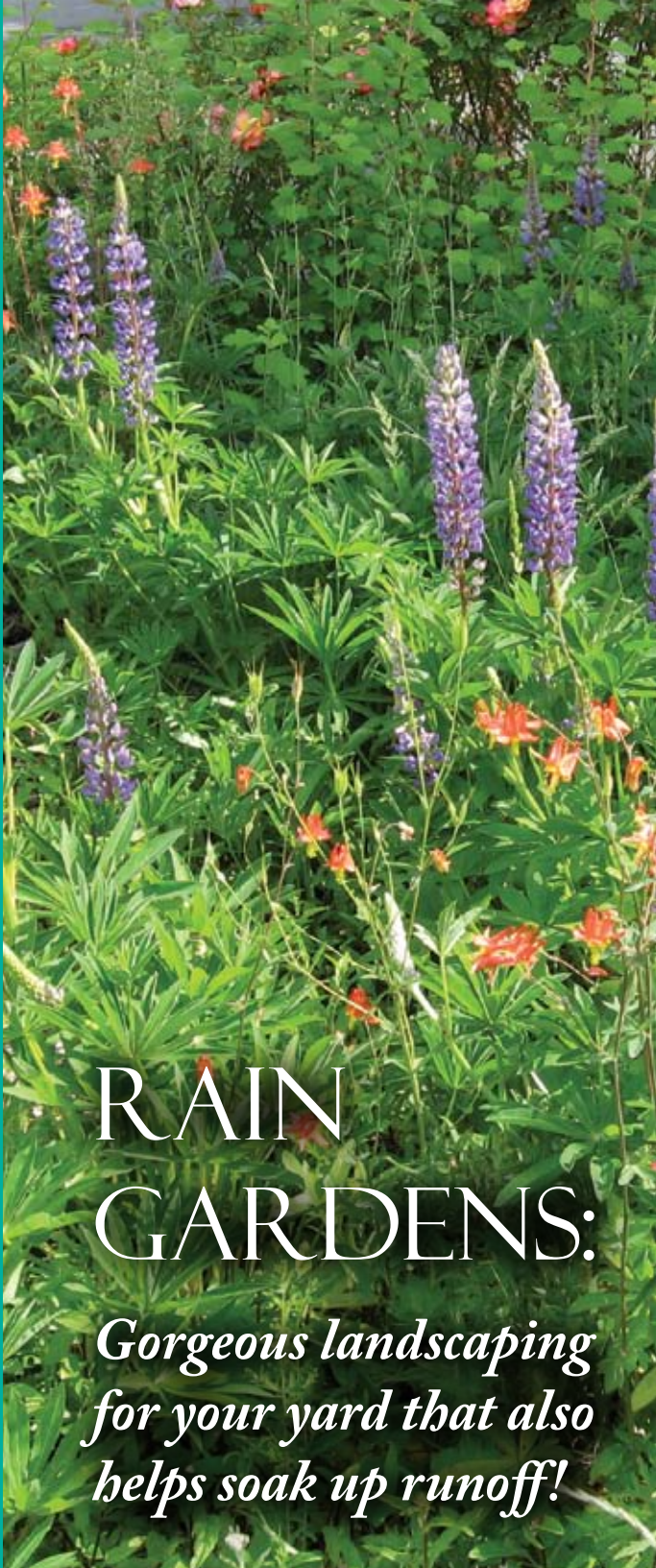


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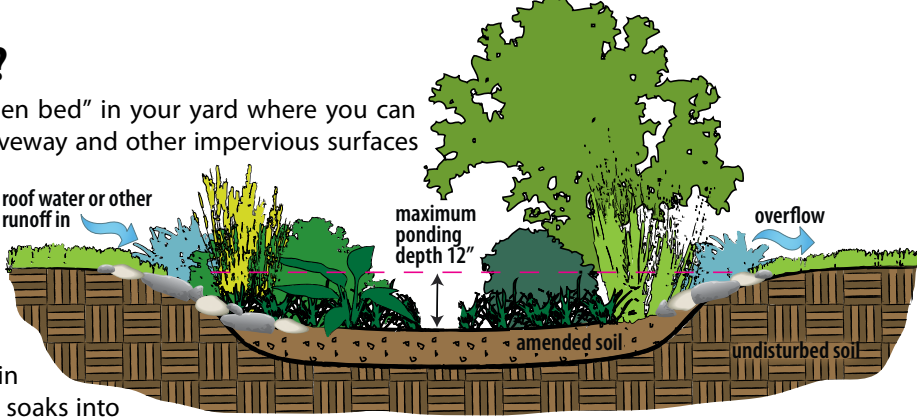
RAIN GARDENS:

Gorgeous landscaping for your yard that also helps soak up runoff!



What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a “sunken garden bed” in your yard where you can direct runoff from your roof, driveway and other impervious surfaces on your property. The rain can then soak into the ground naturally rather than running off into storm drains.



Why build one?

When a landscape is covered in natural vegetation, most rainfall soaks into the ground. As we build impervious surfaces like roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and streets, much of the rainfall can’t soak into the ground anymore. This can create problems, not just for people, but also for streams.

Rain gardens are a beautiful and effective way to manage stormwater runoff because they allow rain to soak into the ground naturally. This prevents pollution from entering our local streams and wetlands, recharges groundwater and keeps water flowing in our streams during summer months. Rain gardens are becoming very popular because they are planted with beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance and drought tolerant plants. They are an easy way for all of us to do our part to protect our streams and rivers, and they provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.



This rain garden is a beautiful addition to the home’s landscaping.

I M P O R T A N T !

To avoid drainage problems, place your rain garden **at least six feet from your house** if you have a basement (two feet if you don’t) and **five feet from your property line**. Call your local jurisdiction to find out if you need a permit to disconnect your downspout or if there are special requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Do rain gardens breed mosquitoes?**
No. Because rain gardens are shallow and are only built on soils with sufficient drainage, they are designed to dry out before mosquitoes can reproduce.
- Can I install a rain garden if I have a septic system?**
Yes, but it is very important not to place a rain garden over an active septic system drain field.
- Will my rain garden have standing water for more than a day?**

Rain gardens are designed to infiltrate water in about a day. If it rains several days in a row, it is possible that your rain garden may have standing water until the rain stops and the water has time to soak in.

How to Do a Percolation Test

1. Dig a hole at least 12" deep.
2. Fill with water and let drain.
3. Fill with water a second time. If the water drains at least 1/2" in an hour the second time you fill it, your soil has adequate drainage for a rain garden.

Rain Garden Zones

- Top (T)** - for plants that prefer drier, more well-drained conditions
Slope (S) - for plants that can tolerate both wet and dry conditions
Bottom (B) - for plants that can handle occasional standing water
- For a more exhaustive list of plants see our website www.emswcd.org

Get Started!

- 1 Find a spot in your yard where you can easily direct the runoff from your downspout or other impervious surface. Do a percolation test (*see inset*) to ensure that the soils in that spot can soak up rain water.
- 2 Dig a shallow depression to create a rain garden area six to twelve inches deep. You can make it as long and wide as you like - the bigger it is, the more rain water it can soak up. **Don’t forget to call before you dig so you don’t hit any buried utility lines. Oregon call 1-800-332-2344**
- 3 Use the soil you dig up to create a berm on the down slope side and direct the overflow safely away from nearby buildings. Make the bottom of your rain garden level. If you like, you can amend the soil in your rain garden with compost.
- 4 Plant your plants in the appropriate zone, then mulch around them.
- 5 Direct stormwater to your completed raingarden.
- 6 Live in Multnomah County? Register your rain garden and receive a free yard sign.

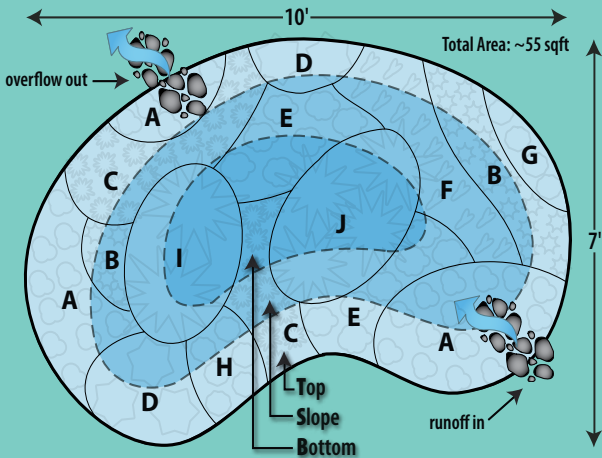


Sample plans

Select the number and type of plants to fit the size of your rain garden, your specific light situation, personal aesthetics, and budget. You can use fewer plants and divide them to cover more area or more/larger plants to have a lush garden faster.

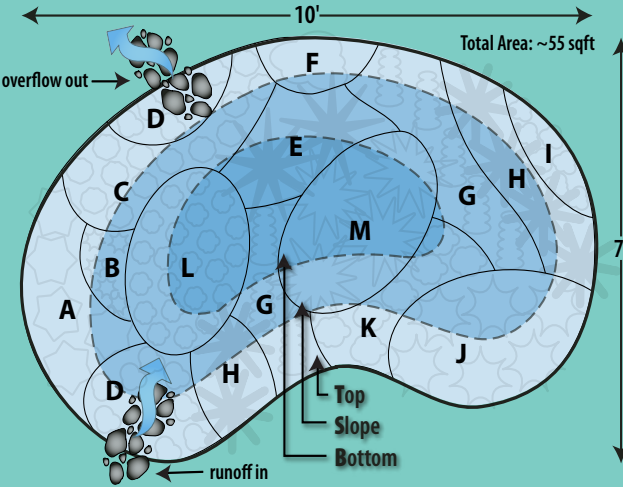
Sunny Garden

KEY	Common Name	Scientific Name	ZONES	Mature ht.
A.	Creeping Oregon Grape	Mahonia nervosa	TSB	8-12"
B.	Western Columbine	Aquilegia formosa	TS	24"
C.	Tufted Hair-grass	Deschampsia cespitosa	TSB	36"
D.	Douglas Aster	Aster subspicatus	TS	8-40"
E.	Common Camas	Camassia quamash	TSB	24"
F.	Oregon Iris	Iris tenax	TS	12"
G.	Cardwell’s Penstemon	Penstemon carwellii	TS	4-12"
H.	Northwest Cinquefoil	Potentilla gracilis	TSB	12"
I.	Red Osier Dogwood	Cornus sericea	TSB	6-18'
J.	Slough Sedge	Carex obnupta	B	4'



Shady Garden

KEY	Common Name	Scientific Name	ZONES	Mature ht.
A.	Salal	Gaultheria shallon	TS	2-6'
B.	Fringecup	Tellima grandiflora	TS	32"
C.	Piggyback Plant	Tolmiea menziesii	S	24"
D.	Woodland Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	TSB	8-12"
E.	Deer Fern	Blechnum spicant	TSB	3'
F.	Creeping Oregon Grape	Mahonia nervosa	TS	2'
G.	False Solomon’s Seal	Smilacina racemosa	TSB	3'
H.	Sword Fern	Polystichum munitum	TS	2-4'
I.	Evergreen Huckleberry	Vaccinium ovatum	TS	2-12'
J.	Western Bleeding Heart	Dicentra formosa	TS	15"
K.	Wood Sorrel	Oxalis oregana	TS	6"
L.	Pacific Rush	Juncus effusus var pacificus	B	10"
M.	Stream Violet	Viola glabella	B	6"



Need a little help?
Check out our free workshops at www.emswcd.org