Rain Garden Basics

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Stormwater is one of the top sources of water pollution in the U.S. (US EPA)
Rain gardens

• Depression in the landscape designed to collect and infiltrate stormwater

• Besides performing this function, they also look really nice!

Photo courtesy of Steve Trinkaus
Rain Gardens

Norwich Extension Office
Bioretention at UConn

Important site considerations for rain gardens

- Avoid areas with:
  - Shallow (<3 feet) depth to bedrock
  - Seasonal high water table (<2ft from bottom)
  - Chronically wet soils (a rain garden is not a wetland!)
Evaluate your soils

• Check soils map at NEMO rain garden site
  • http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/soildemap.htm

Simple sizing method
1. Figure out how much roof or driveway drains to your area

Methods to get drainage area

• Luddite
  • Measure footprint of drainage area

• NEMO Rain Garden website (Google imagery): http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens

• Rain garden app
2. Add up the area:
290 + 90 + 580 = 960 square feet

Rain gardens typically sized to contain 1 inch of rainfall in a depression 6 inches deep

3. Calculate best rain garden size:
960/6 = 160 square feet
Rain garden plants

• Plants that can tolerate wet feet AND prolonged dry periods

General characteristics

• NOT wetland plants!

• Native to the area (or cultivars of native species)

• Non-invasive
http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens

### Design

- It is really up to YOU!

- Try to cluster a large number of the same species for a good visual effect

- Watch for heights of different plants
  - Shading, viewing
Time lapse installation