

## Good Rain Garden Plants



Creeping Oregon Grape  
*Mahonia nervosa*



Douglas Aster  
*Aster subspicatus*



Oregon Iris  
*Iris tenax*



Tufted Hair-grass  
*Deschamsia cespitosa*



Coastal Strawberry  
*Fragaria chiloensis*



Fringecup  
*Tellima grandiflora*



Salal  
*Gaultheria shallon*



Western Red Columbine  
*Aquilegia formosa*



Common Camas  
*Cammasia quamash*



Large-leaved Avens  
*Geum macrophyllum*



Stream Violet  
*Viola glabella*



Yarrow  
*Achillea millefolium*



Common Rush  
*Juncus effusus*



Northwest Cinquefoil  
*Potentilla gracilis*



Sword Fern  
*Polystichum munitum*



Yellow Monkey-Flower  
*Mimulus guttatus*



### Don't use these plants:

These plants are listed on the city of Portland's Nuisance plant list. See [www.emswcd.org](http://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

For more information 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](mailto:candace@emswcd.org) or 503-222-7645.

## About EMSWCD

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is a unit of local government serving the residents and landowners of Multnomah County lying east of the Willamette River by providing conservation education, technical, and financial assistance to private land and home owners, governments, and non-profit organizations. We use a cooperative, non-regulatory approach to preserve our soil and keep our water clean.



### East Multnomah SWCD

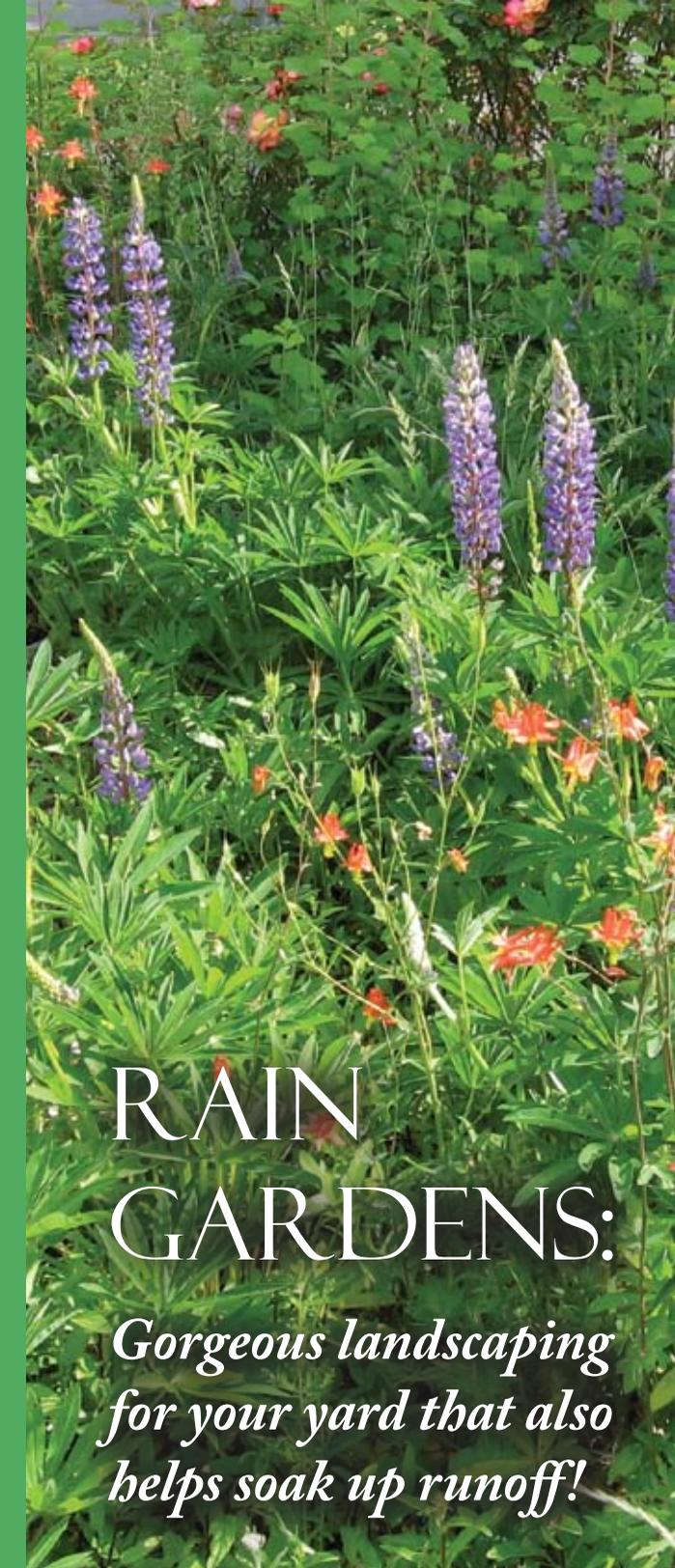
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# RAIN GARDENS:

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

## What is a rain garden?

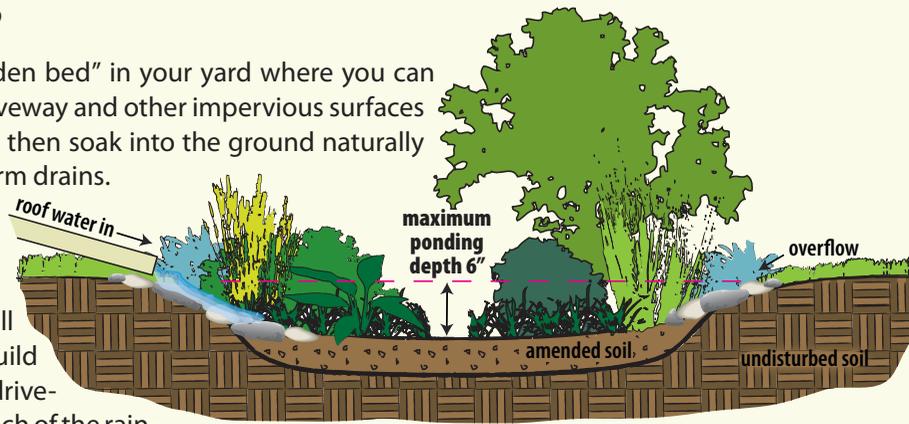
A rain garden is a “sunken garden bed” in your yard where you can direct runoff from your roof, driveway and other impervious surfaces on your property. The rain can then soak into the ground naturally rather than running off into storm drains.

## 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 rain-fall can't soak into the ground anymore. This can create problems, not just for people, but also for streams.



There are a number of ways to move the water from the downspout to your rain garden. This homeowner uses a dry streambed that is lined with plastic for the first few feet near the foundation. The downspout pipe is hidden by rocks and plants giving a more natural appearance. The rocks also slow the stream of water to prevent erosion.



Rain gardens are a beautiful 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 in our streams during summer months.

Rain gardens are becoming very popular because they:

1. Are planted with beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance and drought tolerant plants.
2. Are an easy way for all of us to do our part to protect our streams and rivers.
3. Provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

## 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 to ensure that the soils in that spot can soak up rain water. 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.

**How to Do a Percolation Test**

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

- 2 Dig a shallow depression to create a rain garden area about six 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. In 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 and then mulch. Water the plants until they are established.
- 5 Help us track of the number of rain gardens out there and receive a free rain garden sign by registering your rain garden at [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org)

## 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.

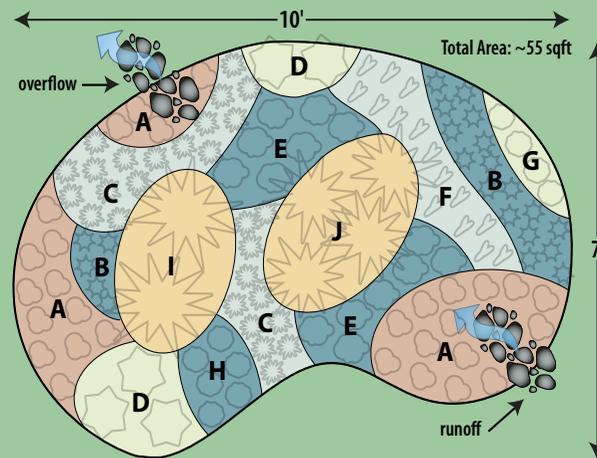
**Will my rain garden have standing water for more than a day?**  
Rain gardens are designed to infiltrate water in about a day. If it rains several days in a row, it is possible that your rain garden may have standing water until the rain stops and the water has time to soak in.

**Don't rain gardens require sandy soil?**  
If your soil can percolate two inches of water per hour, you have adequate drainage.

**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 a septic system.

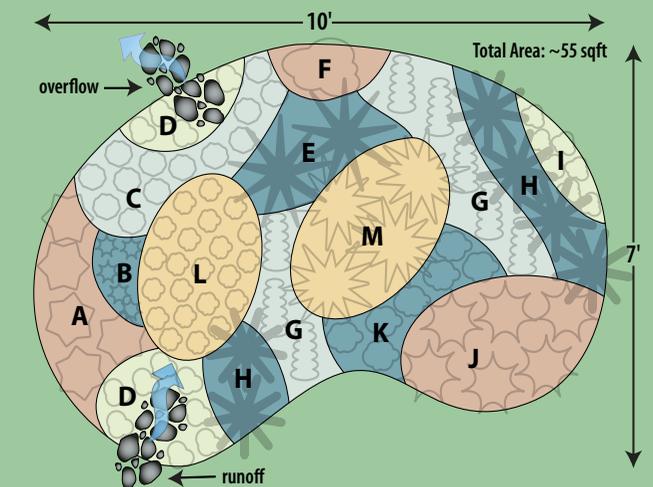
## Sunny Garden

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| A. Coastal Strawberry, <i>Frageria chiloensis</i>   | 29 (4" pots)          |
| B. Common Camas, <i>Camassia quamash</i>            | 22+ (bulbs)           |
| C. Tufted Hair-grass, <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>  | 28 (4" pots)          |
| D. Douglas Aster, <i>Aster subspicatus</i>          | 5 (½ gal.)            |
| E. Western Columbine, <i>Aquilegia formosa</i>      | 7 (½ gal.)            |
| F. Oregon Iris, <i>Iris tenax</i>                   | 28 (4" pots/rhizomes) |
| G. Yarrow, <i>Achillea millefolium</i>              | 4 (½ gal.)            |
| H. Northwest Cinquefoil, <i>Potentilla gracilis</i> | 6 (½ gal.)            |
| I. Slough Sedge, <i>Carex obnupta</i>               | 2 (1 gal.)            |
| J. Dense Sedge, <i>Carex densa</i>                  | 4 (½ gal.)            |



## Shady Garden

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| A. Salal, <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>                | 5 (½ gal.)   |
| B. Fringecup, <i>Tellima grandiflora</i>           | 5 (4" pots)  |
| C. Piggyback Plant, <i>Tolmiea menziesii</i>       | 13 (4" pots) |
| D. Coastal Strawberry, <i>Frageria chiloensis</i>  | 12 (4" pots) |
| E. Sword Fern, <i>Polystichum munitum</i>          | 2 (1 gal.)   |
| F. Creeping Oregon Grape, <i>Mahonia nervosa</i>   | 1 (1 gal.)   |
| G. False Solomon's Seal, <i>Smilacina racemosa</i> | 8 (½ gal.)   |
| H. Deer Fern, <i>Blechnum spicant</i>              | 6 (½ gal.)   |
| I. Wood Sorrel, <i>Oxalis oregana</i>              | 7 (4" pots)  |
| J. Western Bleeding Heart, <i>Dicentra formosa</i> | 6 (½ gal.)   |
| K. Large-leaved Avens, <i>Geum macrophyllum</i>    | 7 (4" pots)  |
| L. Stream Violet, <i>Viola glabella</i>            | 22 (4" pots) |
| M. Dagger-leaved Rush, <i>Juncus ensifolius</i>    | 4 (½ gal.)   |



**Need a little help?** Check out our free workshops at [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org)