

# Rain Gardens & Pollinators

## What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is landscaped, shallow depression, that captures, absorbs and filters storm water runoff from buildings, roads, and other surfaces. They are designed to hold water for a short time period to trap and filter out pollutants such as sediments, oil and fertilizer.

## Benefits of Rain Gardens

- They provide habitat for birds, butterflies and many other pollinators
- They recharge groundwater while reducing stormwater runoff
- They improve water quality by filtering pollutants from storm water such as grass clippings, fertilizers, oil and other kinds of residues.
- They provide storage for rainwater helping prevent ditches and storm sewers from being overwhelmed

## Rain Garden Plants

These native plants are a good pick for a rain garden, not all of them are planted in our garden.

### Perennials

Columbine: *Apulegia canadensis*  
 Goat's beard: *Artemisia aristata*  
 Swamp Milkweed: *Asclepias incarnata*  
 Butterfly weed: *Asclepias tuberosa*  
 Cornflower varieties: *Echinacea*  
 Monkey flower: *Mimulus ringens*  
 Beebalm: *Monarda didyma*  
 Spiderwort: *Thlassectia biensis*  
 Globe flower: *Trollius laxus*  
 Longleaf speedwell: *Veronica longifolia*  
 Culver's root: *Veronicastrum virginicum*  
 Ironweed: *Veronica fasciculata*  
 Bird's foot violet: *Viola pedata*

### Shrubs

Chokeberry: *Aronia arbutifolia* (red) *melanocarpa* (black)  
 Buttonbush: *Cophaeranthus occidentalis*  
 Red Twig Dogwood: *Cornus sericea*  
 Sweetspire, Virginia: *Itea virginica*  
 Ninebark, Common: *Physocarpus opulifolius*  
 Meadowsweet Spirea: *Spiraea latifolia*  
 Arrowwood: *Viburnum acerifolium*

### Trees

Serviceberry: *Amelanchier canadensis*  
 Black gum: *Nyssa sylvatica*  
 River Birch: *Betula nigra*

## Depth

The depth, typically 3 to 8 inches, is proportionate to surface area, to ensure water will be retained and infiltrate soil.

## Size

To calculate the actual size, you must first test the soils percolation rate and measure the drainage area. The size is typically 5-10% of the surface area that will drain to the rain garden.

## Plant Choices

Choose plants based on need for light, moisture and soil. Native plants are more tolerant of local soil and weather conditions. We selected native plants that are known to attract pollinators

## Pollinators

Pollinators are crucial to many plants. Without them they would not produce seeds and reproduce. To create a pollinator garden choose plants that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar and pollen sources. remember to provide food sources for all parts of the life cycle such as caterpillar and butterfly

Our garden should attract:

### Butterflies

Painted Lady  
 Red Admiral  
 Giant Swallowtail  
 Black Swallowtail  
 Spicebush Swallowtail  
 Tiger Swallowtail  
 Pipevine Swallowtail  
 Monarch butterfly

### Bees

Honey Bees  
 yellow jackets  
 Bumblees

### Others

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird  
 Bees

## Location

They should be no closer than 10 ft to the nearest building. For the best environmental benefit, build it where it can capture runoff from your driveways or downspouts

## Soil Amendments

Your soil will most likely need to be amended to increase water infiltration. A good soil mix is 65% sand, 15% topsoil, and 20% compost.

## Base

There should be no barrier or liner stopping the water from soaking into the surrounding soil

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