

# *Is a Rain Garden Right For Me?*

## ***Why rain gardens?***

Stormwater carries pollutants to local streams, lakes, and ponds and may contribute to flooding during heavy rainfall events. A rain garden is a man-made landscape feature designed to capture and reduce stormwater runoff. Rain gardens are particularly important in urban areas because developed land (pavement, buildings, and compacted soils) increases stormwater runoff.

## **Things to Consider:**

### ***Will a rain garden integrate into the landscape design?***

Rain gardens can be accommodated in almost any residential landscape. The goal of a rain garden is to capture runoff before it reaches a storm drain or water body. Ideally, a rain garden will be located between the sources of runoff and the runoff destination. The size, shape, and plants can be tailored to the location and the amount of water you want to capture. Remember that a rain garden will be periodically wet or dry, but should not hold water more than 3 days.

### ***How much will it cost?***

The cost will depend upon the size of your garden, plant selection, amount of mulch needed, and whether you do it yourself or request a professional. In general a small residential rain garden will cost between \$100 and \$300.

### ***How long does it take to build?***

Once you have determined the design of your residential rain garden, it can typically be constructed within a day or two. Be sure to locate your utilities before you dig by calling the free service KY 811 at 1-800-752-6007. A few days after making the call, a technician will come to your home and mark underground utilities in the areas you wish to dig.

### ***What tools and materials do I need?***

Common yard tools like shovels, a tamper or heavy object (like a cement block), and an inexpensive leveling device are all you'll need. Other supplies include mulch for the garden basin, and straw or other erosion control material for the berm.

### ***How much maintenance is needed?***

Basic maintenance includes typical care for new plants the first year (especially regular watering during dry spells) and pruning, thinning and transplanting once plants are established and as the garden matures. Replenish mulch every two to three years.

## **Benefits:**

- Increase in infiltration which recharges groundwater
- Low maintenance
- Food and shelter for birds, bugs, and other wildlife.
- Beautiful addition to your landscape
- Tax incentives for residents of some communities
- Improves water quality

## ***So, if you think you might be interested in a rain garden...***

Contact your County Extension Agent or visit UK's College of Agriculture Rain Garden website ([www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/raingarden.php](http://www.ca.uky.edu/gogreen/raingarden.php)) for additional rain garden information.

## **We offer a one day workshop covering the following topics:**

*Rain gardens and their role in stormwater management*

*Landscape/lawn assessment: locating the site for a rain garden*

*Rain garden construction: size, design, and installation*

*Plant selection, care, and rain garden maintenance*

The workshop format provides both classroom and hands-on instruction including working examples, a simulated site assessment, and an abbreviated installation and planting exercise.

## ***Join us...***

Date: Monday, April 8, 2013

Time: 9:00am to 4:00 pm

Location: Henderson Co. Extension Expo and Education Center

**Cost: \$15 per person (includes lunch), payment should be made to Henderson Co. Soils Lab. Detach this portion and mail in with payment or pay in person at the Extension Office by April 4!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

For further information on this or other area workshops, please contact us at the phone number or email address below.

**Henderson Co. Cooperative Extension Service**

**3341 Zion Rd., Henderson, KY 42420**

**Need more Info? Contact Jeff Porter at 270-826-8387/ [jrport4@uky.edu](mailto:jrport4@uky.edu)**

**REGISTER by April 4!**

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