



Rain Garden



3 Easy Steps to Install a Rain Garden (more detailed information on back)



Downspout

Step 1: Choose Site & Plan Project

- ◆ Select location, size and shape of the rain garden



Downspout

Step 2: Excavation (Sept. 2004)

- ◆ Shallow, 4 to 8 inches deep
- ◆ Flat bottom



Step 3: Planting (Sept. 2004)

- ◆ Install native plants at one foot spacing within the rain garden



Spring 2005



Spring/Summer 2005

- ◆ Weed control until established
- ◆ Water when dry to help establish plants



July 2005



August 2005



July 2007

(About 3 years after planting)



Enjoy Nature!

**For more information about rain gardens please contact the
Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department at (920) 232-1950**

Please visit the Winnebago County Rain Garden which is pictured above
County Fairgrounds - Sunnyview Expo Center
500 East County Road Y
Oshkosh, WI 54901

(OVER)

EASY TO FOLLOW STEPS TO INSTALL AND ENJOY YOUR RAIN GARDEN

Step 1: Select

- a. **Location** for rain garden
 - Recommend close to a downspout but stay at least 20 feet away from any building
 - Locate and identify any utilities (phone, cable, etc.)
 - You may want to use plastic pipe to direct the water toward your rain garden
- b. **Size**
 - Larger roofs can contribute more water to your garden
 - Generally a third as big as the roof area that drains to it
(Rain gardens are usually 10 square feet to 500 square feet)
- c. **Shape**
 - To your taste

Step 2: Excavation

Remove or dig the existing soil, lawn or fill to form a shallow excavation (recommend 4 to 8 inches deep). The excavation should have a flat bottom so water does not run out of the garden. The excavated soil may be used as a berm around the perimeter of the rain garden as long as the berm does not prevent roof water from entering the garden.

Step 3: Planting

Select and install native plants

- 2 inch to 3 inch plant plugs or potted plants are recommended (seed may wash away)
- Plant at a spacing of 1 to 2 feet apart within rain garden

You may add rocks, logs, mulch or other landscape features to your rain garden

Step 4: Maintenance

Weeds

- Remove weeds as soon as possible
- Mulch or apply pre-emergent weed control granules to help eliminate weeds from germinating
- Established weeds may be hand pulled or treated with an herbicide. (When using an herbicide be careful not to spray or apply to the native plants.)

Water

- Watering your rain garden during the first growing season is recommended during dry periods
- Once the native plants are established, there should be no reason to water

Prune

- Pruning is not necessary, but you may choose to prune or clip the plants (3"-6" above ground) each spring. Leaving the seed on the plants over the winter allows birds to feed and some seed to fall to the ground to establish new plants. Clippings left on the ground will add mulch to your rain garden.

Step 5: ENJOY!

Enjoy the benefits of your rain garden including:

- Providing some wildlife habitat and beauty
- Water soaks into the ground, thereby replenishing the groundwater and sending less water to storm sewers
- Reduces the amount of water pollution since water does not run off the property