

## 10 Steps Into A Rain Garden

1. **Site Selection**
  - Consider views from your favorite vantage point
  - Consider views from neighbors and from passers-by
  - Consider site circulation and access
2. **Area Required**
  - Roof area contributing water to the downspout X .30 = Square feet of garden
3. **Find the Source**
  - Aim an existing pipe into the garden
  - Put in a new pipe and outlet into the garden
  - Run over land and through the proposed garden
4. **Final Shape**
  - Adjust for best view functions: screening, accenting etc
  - Modify for site constraints: tree roots, pathways etc
5. **Soil Test**
  - Dig a hole 8" round by 8" deep and add a gallon of water
  - Water should drop 1" in 1 hour or else amend the soil
  - Amendment recipe: 50% sand, 25% topsoil, 25% organic for 2' depth
6. **Dig the Basin**
  - Remove grass/plants from the area and save the topsoil for reuse
  - Hold the rim level to contain water
  - Provide an overflow area or pipe
7. **Set the Plants**
  - Select your favorites and set them right where you want to plant them
  - Invite your friends, family and neighbors over for a planting party
  - Install each plant at its location set slightly higher than the surrounding soil
8. **Apply Mulch**
  - Dresses the garden, holds moisture, slows weed invasion
  - Choices include hardwood chips, rock, gravel etc
9. **Pay Yourself**
  - Step into your favorite vantage point and admire your accomplishment
  - Feel good knowing you improved your yard and your neighborhood watershed
10. **Maintenance Tips**
  - Keep weeds out and plant labels in
  - Water for the first year at ¼" per week
  - Maintain an "edge" so it remains looking like a garden