



“Structure Feed Rain Water Garden”

By capturing storm water runoff in shallow depressions and letting it to soak into the ground, or retaining it for aquatic vegetation, rainwater gardens not only lower the peak flow of storm water, but decrease the base flow of water that reaches lakes, streams, and rivers. This also helps recharge stores of groundwater in aquifers. They filter out or capture sediment and other pollutants like oil, grease, chemical fertilizers, and heavy metals by catching these in the first inch of runoff, which contains the highest concentration of pollutants. Structure feed rainwater gardens transform storm water from a destructive carrier of pollution into a source of sustenance for plant and wildlife habitats. Plants thrive on nitrogen and phosphorus, while their stems trap pollutant laden sediment and water that would otherwise be carried into the watershed.

- **Step 1**

Install basic gutter systems to one side of your home, and position the downspout near the proposed garden site.



- **Step 2**

Specify your site location, and the shape of your rain garden. Organic shapes work better than geometric shapes, and have a more natural appearance. Be sure that the site is not far from your gutter downspout.



- **Step 3**

Dig the soil out of the rain water bed shape to a depth of 12 to 16 inches, and place soil to the side. Dig a trench from the gutter downspout to the garden “hole” and place a 4”PVC pipe in the trench for connection at a later time.



- **Step 4**

To plant aquatic plants, and create a “mini wetland” place 4 millimeter or greater plastic sheeting in the bed and reposition PVC pipe on top of plastic.

For non aquatic plants, disregard the plastic sheeting and move to Step 5

- **Step 5**

Connect flexible gutter elbow to down spout, and connect PVC to flexible gutter elbow using 4” transducer. Be sure to use stainless steel gutter screws.

- **Step 6**

Connect 4” filter grating to PVC pipe, wrap with cotton cloth, and secure with plastic tie wrap. This insures that sediment does not clog pipe and reduce water flow from gutter.

- **Step 7**

Spread plastic so it extends over the bed and allow enough over lap for decorative boarder to be place on top of excess plastic. Fill in the bed and the pipe trench with the previously removed soil. Grass sod can be placed back into the pipe trench for a seamless look. Be careful not to ripe the plastic liner. So the storm water from the gutter will remain in the bed. Fill the bed with soil up to 1 or 2 inches from ground level.

- **Step 8**

Place decorative border on top of the ground level plastic and trim any excess plastic using household scissors. This step is optional if you created a “non aquatic” rain garden as you will not have any plastic sheeting to deal with. The border can be treated how you see fit. Remove any grass that may be remaining from initial dig, and be sure to plant **native plants** that attract butterflies or hummingbirds to your rainwater garden. **Enjoy!**



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