: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

Rain Gardens and Their Use on the Farm

Isabel Nazarian,
Midwest Regional
Partner Biologist

www.pollinator.org
Isabel@pollinator.org

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Protect their lives. Preserve ours.

Support for Agricultural Lands

- Pollinator Partnership works to support NRCS programs through our network of Partner Biologists
- Partner Biologists provide pollinator-related conservation support to NRCS staff, partners, as well as agricultural producers and landowners
- Our state level Partner Biologists are also able to provide one-on-one assistance to landowners at various stages of pollinator habitat project(s)

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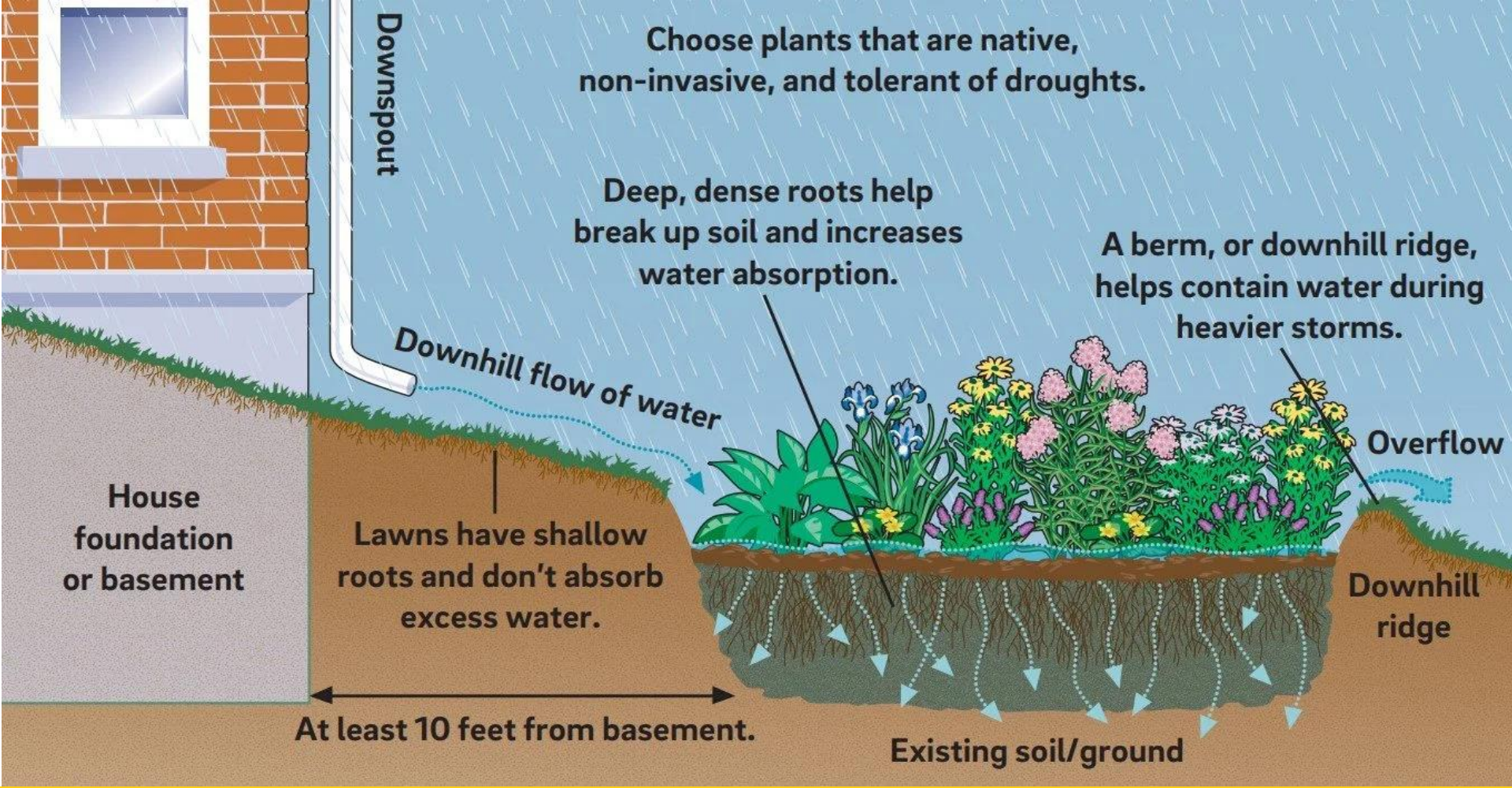
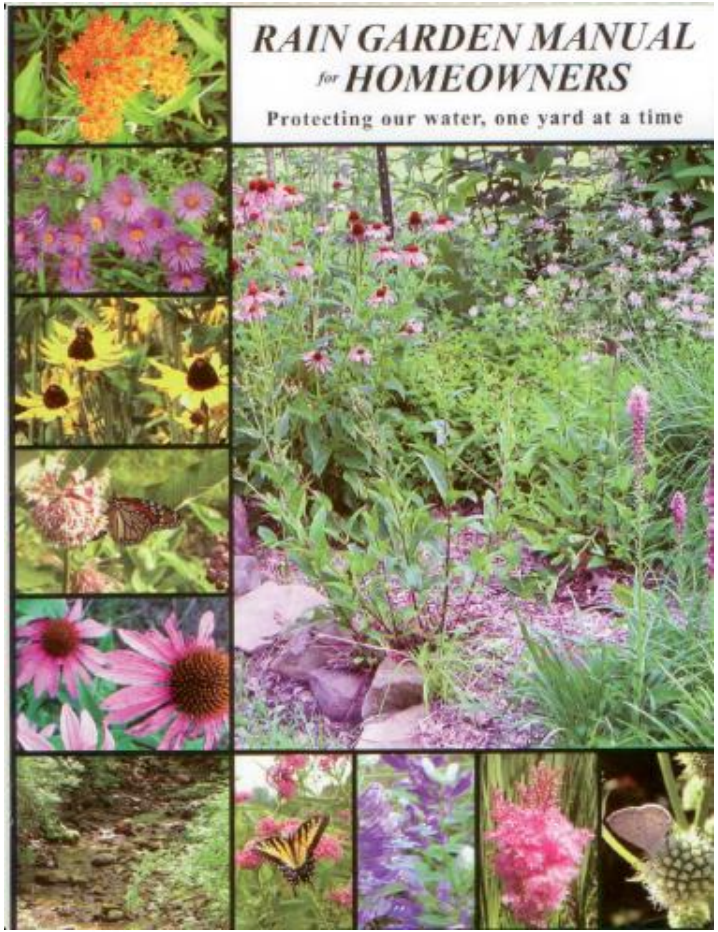
What Is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a type of small-scale green infrastructure designed to temporarily store rainwater and increase infiltration during precipitation events.



: Philadelphia Water Department



Specifications

The size of a rain garden depends on:

- The size of the drainage area
- Square footage of roof or other impervious surface

The depth of a rain garden depends on:

- Soil type at the site
- Percolation (drainage) test

Rain gardens can be any shape!

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: Northeast Ohio Public Involvement Public Education Committee

Benefits of Rain Gardens

- Stormwater / precipitation management
  - Shuster et.al 2020: Up to 90% of rainfall events kept water from entering drainage systems
- Water quality protection
- Groundwater infiltration
- Wildlife habitat
- Nutrient filtration
- Erosion reduction

: Hannah Dorol, Bea Cerojano

Rain Gardens on Farms

With some engineering, rain gardens are scalable!

Rain gardens can be co-located with:

- Barns
- Confined feeding operations
- Access lanes
- Feeding and watering zones
- Other impervious surfaces across the farm

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: Conservationfoundation.org, Amber Barnes

Rain Gardens & Pollinators

Follow general native planting guidance:

- Plan for a minimum of **3 species per bloom period**
- Select a **diversity** of bloom **shapes, sizes, and colors**
- Plant a mix of **grasses, flowers, and shrubs**

For the **basin**: select plants that are adapted to grow in and around **wetlands, riparian areas, and wet meadows**

For the **berm**: select upland species that are adapted to **medium soils**

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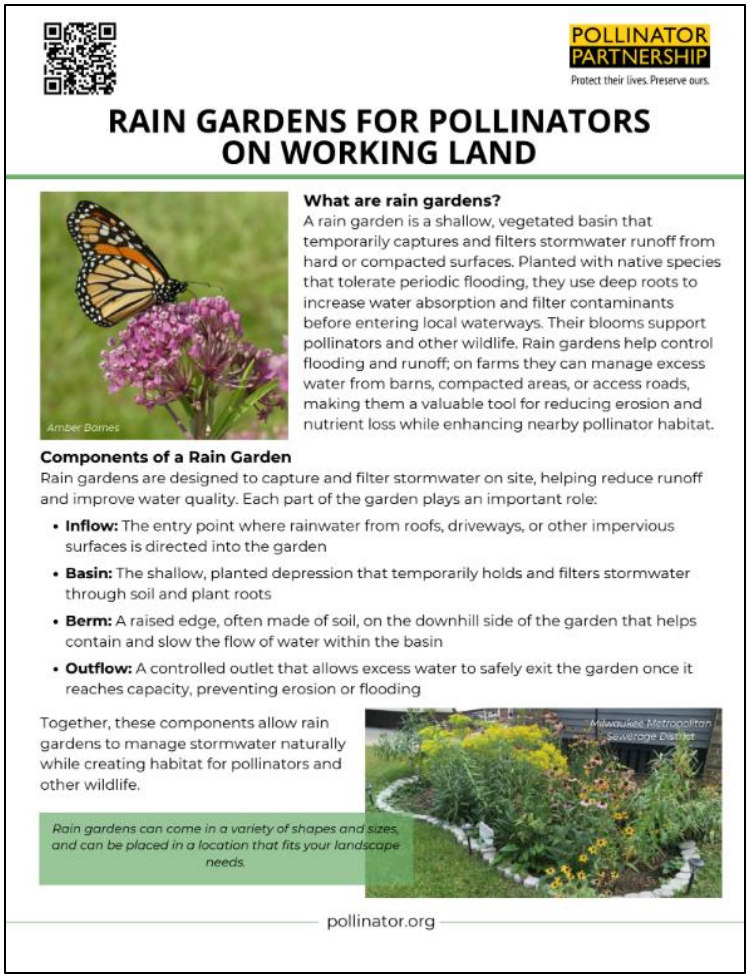
Resources

- Find Your Roots Tool
  - Plant selection based on zip code
- Rain Garden Quick Reference Guide
  - Terms and overview of practices
- Rain Garden Supplement
  - Equations
  - Soil assessments
  - And more!



: Pollinator Partnership

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Thank you!

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