

Raingardens

The secret to clean water is in the roots!



Backyard Raingarden - Blue Thumb

You can plant a raingarden at home to catch runoff from your rooftop, driveway or street. The runoff soaks into the garden within two days and is cleaned by the plants and the soil.



Mahtomedi Raingarden - Blue Thumb



Lake Elmo Raingarden - Bonnie Juran

A raingarden is simply a bowl shaped garden that is built where it will capture rain and snowmelt (stormwater runoff) before it reaches a storm sewer or nearby stream, lake or river.

Raingardens are a beautiful way to keep our favorite lakes and rivers clean. They ensure a steady supply of groundwater and attract birds and butterflies.

Why raingardens?

Properly designed raingardens:

- ☼ Beautify your landscape
- ☼ Reduce pollution to lakes, rivers and streams
- ☼ Reduce flooding and erosion
- ☼ Attract birds and butterflies
- ☼ Protect fish and other aquatic animals

Raingardens DO NOT:

- ☼ attract mosquitoes
- ☼ hold water more than 2 days
- ☼ require more maintenance than other gardens
- ☼ cost lots of money

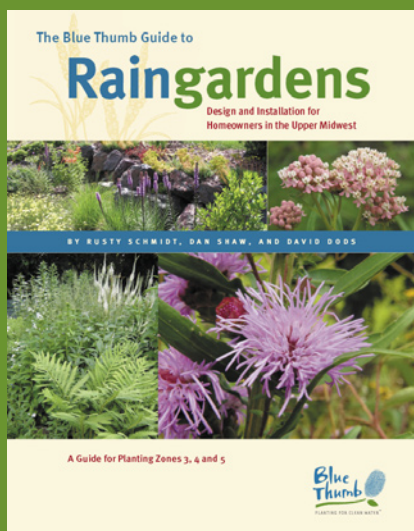


Learn more about raingardens at
www.BlueThumb.org



The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens leads you through the basics of designing and installing a raingarden in your yard. \$17.95.

Find local retailers at www.BlueThumb.org.



Live in Washington County?

Get free design advice and \$\$ for native habitat plantings, raingardens and shoreline projects.

651-275-1136 x.35 or mnwcd.org/cleanwater

Raingardens

Plan today, plant tomorrow!



Stillwater Raingarden
Brown's Creek Watershed District

Raingardens come in all shapes and sizes, and can complement existing landscaping.



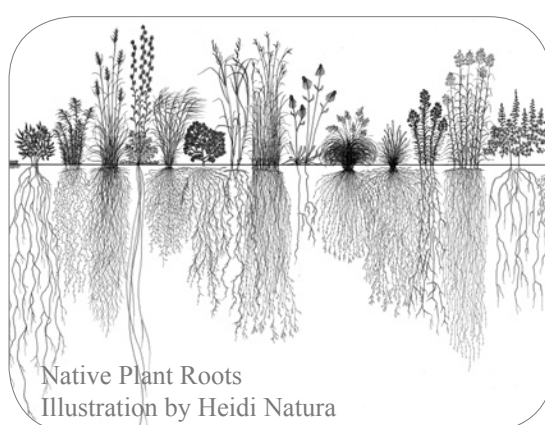
Stillwater Raingarden
Middle St. Croix Watershed

Place your garden where it will capture run-off from your rooftop or driveway.



Black-Eyed Susan
Blue Thumb

Native plants and deep-rooted garden perennials are best for raingardens.



Native Plant Roots
Illustration by Heidi Natura

Deep roots help to soak water into the ground and break up compacted soil.



Monarch Butterfly on Milkweed
Blue Thumb

Native plants are drought resistant and do not require fertilizer or pesticides.



Mahomedi Raingarden
Rice Creek Watershed District

Raingardens work in both sandy and clay soils and can also be planted in the shade.