A rain garden is a low area in your yard designed to hold rain for 24-48 hours.

What does a rain garden do?

Helps rainwater replenish our drinking water aquifer

Adds beauty to your yard and supports pollinators

Gives plants time to absorb excess nutrients and pollutants

Reduces short-term flooding

Where do I put a rain garden?

At least 10 feet from your house

Where downspout or roof runoff flows

At least 25 feet from septic system drain fields and wells

Learn More

Download the manual

RAIN GARDENS
A Manual for Central Florida Residents

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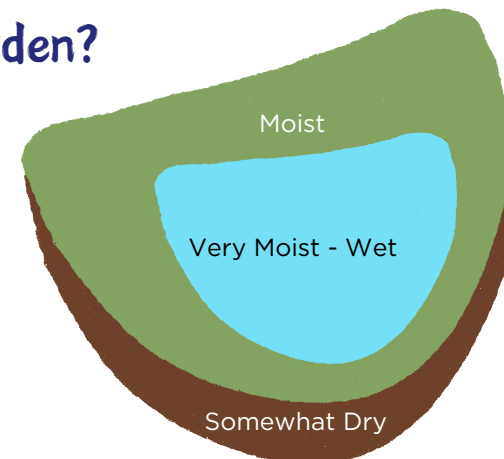**Marion County** FLORIDA
EXTENSION SERVICE

Rain Gardens

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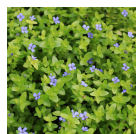UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

How do I build a rain garden?

1. Identify a location where rain already flows in your yard or where erosion is occurring.

2. Call 811 to locate underground utilities (free).

3. Dig a shallow depression from the downspout to the garden with a slight slope.

4. Dig a 4"-8" deep depression for your rain garden.

5. Build berms on the sides and the downslope edge.

6. Add compost to sandy soils if needed. Plant and mulch.

7. Water if needed during very dry conditions.

Enjoy!

What do I plant in a rain garden?
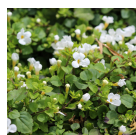

Moist

Very Moist - Wet

Somewhat Dry

Very Moist - Wet

Lemon Bacopa (1/2 - 1 ft)

Crinum Lily (1-3 ft)

Water Hyssop (1-3 ft)

Pink Swamp Milkweed (1 - 3 1/2 ft)
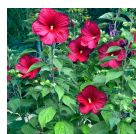
Blue Flag Iris (4 ft)

Canna Lillies (6 ft)

Moist

Aquatic Milkweed (1-3 ft)

Swamp Sunflower (2-6 ft)

Red Swamp Mallow (4-8 ft)

Moist - Somewhat Dry

Blue-eyed grass (1/2 - 1 ft)

Fakahatchee Grass (4-6 ft)

Elderberry (6-13 ft)