

## ***Rain Garden Plants:***

Your plant selection should be made from native or naturalized plants from your region. These plants will be acclimated to the weather and insect pests of your area. Be sure to check specific sunlight and water needs before planting.

The following is only a very short list of recommended plants.

### **Wildflowers**

asters, anise hyssop, black-eyed susan, cardinal flower, blue flag iris, wild geranium, purple cone flower

### **Grasses**

big bluestem, Indian grass, liriopse, sweet grass, soft rush, prairie cord grass

### **Shrubs and Trees**

red-osier dogwood, silky dogwood, winterberry, highbush cranberry, yellow birch, red maple, river birch



## **Introducing: SORG**

Southeastern Ohio Rain Gardens, established in 2010, is a local collaborative effort to promote the benefits of rain gardens for clean water and community beautification. The initiative can provide you with education and technical assistance to help with rain garden assessment, design and planting plans. Assistance is available for residents, community organizations, municipalities and businesses.

*Please visit [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org) or call Athens Soil and Water Conservation District at (740) 797-9686 ext. 5 for more information.*



### **Partners:**

Athens Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Athens, OSU Extension - Athens County, Athens Shade Tree Commission and Hocking College.

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# Rain Gardens



***Stewardship today for healthy water tomorrow***



### ***Our Mission:***

***To promote the benefits of storm water management through the use of rain gardens for beautification and clean water.***



## What is a Rain Garden?

A rain garden is a man-made or natural depression that is designed and planted with perennial plants to create an attractive display while improving water quality. The rain garden forms a "bio retention area" by collecting water run-off and storing it just long enough for it to be filtered and slowly absorbed by the soil.

## How do they work?

Rain gardens slow and reduce storm water runoff from hard surfaces like rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots. Individually designed with soil amendments they address excess water and provide wildlife habitat. They also help reduce harmful pollutants by filtering water runoff through plant roots and soil.

## Benefits

- Home beautification and the reduction of lawn maintenance; less lawn, less pesticides and mowing
- Protects local rivers and streams from storm water pollution and helps recharge ground water supply
- Reduces problems associated with flooding and drainage

## Planting a Rain Garden?



### We're here to help

Visit [www.athensswcd.org](http://www.athensswcd.org) or call (740) 797-9686 ext. 5 for information.



### Dig Safely

Call the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) before you dig: (800) 362-2764.



### Know your soil

Dig an 8"x8"x8" test hole, fill with water and check infiltration after 24 hours. Rain gardens should drain in 24 hours. Soils should be amended as needed.



### Let nature work for you

Construct your garden in the spring or fall season and consider using locally grown native plants. They are used to our soils, climate and pollinators.



### Check the flow

Consider an outlet for overflow in heavy rain events.



### Recruit your friends

Consider having volunteers help with excavation and/or planting to keep costs low.



### Maintain your garden

Observe and maintain your garden. Water, weed and mulch as needed to ensure the establishment of your plants.



### Share your rain garden

Call Athens SWCD office at (740) 797-9686 ext. 5 or email your photos to [cathybobo@athensswcd.org](mailto:cathybobo@athensswcd.org). We will add you to our growing list of backyard conservationists and update the total gallons of storm water collected in southeastern Ohio!

