

LANDSCAPING FOR WATER QUALITY BACKYARD RAIN GARDENS

When rain falls in a natural setting, almost all stormwater infiltrates the soils and groundwater or is taken up by vegetation. But when land is developed, the impervious cover (roads, rooftops, driveways, parking lots) increases the volume of stormwater that is not absorbed by the land and accelerates the transport of stormwater across the surface of the land. As impervious cover increases, so does the volume and velocity of contaminated surface runoff into streams, lakes and sounds. Polluted stormwater runoff is the number one reason for poor water quality in North Carolina, and more specifically, the Tar-Pamlico River Basin.

What You Can Do!

You can build a rain garden at your home! Rain gardens are landscaped depressions that receive stormwater runoff and allow the runoff to slowly infiltrate to the ground-water table. As well as intercepting stormwater runoff that could have added to potential flooding problems, the rain garden allows nature to play a role, removing some of the pollutants that would have otherwise affected downstream water quality. During infiltration, plants use excess nutrients for growth, sediment is trapped in the garden and biological and physical processes remove pollution. Rain gardens also create important habitat for bees, butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

For more information, visit: soundrivers.org/landscaping-for-clean-water/



A rain garden is nature's way of cleaning up polluted runoff

Common Plants for your Rain Garden

- Blue Flag Iris
- Swamp Milkweed
- Cardinal Flower
- Juncus
- Rush
- Lilies
- Sedges

