



Rain Gardens

Definition

A manmade depression in the landscape to capture and temporarily store storm-water until it infiltrates into the soil

Benefits

- Beautiful addition to landscape
- Prevents or reduces storm-water problems

Tips

- 10+ feet from a structure or foundation
- 4+ feet of vegetation around the garden
- Typically designed in a 2:1 length to width ratio
- If area is greater than 300 ft², then divide into multiple gardens
- Sizes, shapes, and orientations vary based on the site
- Soil Compaction
- Aeration or loosen compacted soil by adding pebbles, expanded shale, or compost
- 1-2 year old native plants

Resources

Plants

- Texas SmartScape® utilizes Xeriscape® principles, but goes beyond the basics by providing design, care and plant search tools that are “Smart” for North Central Texas. <http://txsmartscape.com>
- Search for native plant info by plant traits or names, browse through our collection of 17,000 native plant images, and pose your plant question to our resident horticulturalist. <http://www.wildflower.org/>
- Texas Plant Information Database (TPID) contains extensive information about native and a few selected naturalized plants that have value for landscape restoration, especially erosion control and wildlife use. <http://tpid.tpwd.state.tx.us/>

Rain Management

- Rain Garden Network supplies information and educational resources to homeowners and others to help them do what they can on their property and in their lives to protect the water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams from pollution and the damage done by stormwater runoff. <http://www.raingardennetwork.com/>
- TexasET contains weather information, current and average evapotranspiration data, and irrigation watering recommendations. <http://texaset.tamu.edu/>
- Information on rainwater management using both rain barrels and rain gardens. <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu/>
- “The Texas Manual on Rainwater Harvesting” explains simple types of rain collection as a rain barrel or irrigation at the end of a downspout, or as complex as a potable system. www.twdb.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RainwaterHarvestingManual_3rdedition.pdf