

Rain Gardens

How to create your own Rain Garden planter

Our rivers are under a huge amount of stress in the UK, with increased urbanisation changing the natural flow of water, leading to increased water pollution and flooding.

But there is something you can do to help.

There are a number of features you can add to your garden, known as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), which mimic the countryside in our towns and cities and help improve your local area for wildlife.

Rain Gardens are one of these features. They come in many shapes and sizes, but all have a common goal; to capture water in a beautiful and wildlife-friendly way!

Read on to find out how you can create a Rain Garden Planter in your own garden.

Rain gardens are usually depressions in the ground or raised planters into which a downpipe from the guttering is directed, thereby capturing water during storms that would otherwise have gone straight down the drain, helping to prevent flooding and pollution.



Some Recommended Native Plants

- Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudocorus*)
- Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*)
- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*)
- Hemp agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*)
- Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*)
- Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*)
- Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*)
- Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
- Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*)
- Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)



Rain Gardens can be planted with wildlife-friendly plants, such as Yellow Flag Iris, which look beautiful in the garden whilst also supporting pollinators such as Bumblebees and Butterflies.

Make sure they are hardy enough to withstand wet and drought conditions.

Rain Gardens can be a welcome green space in concreted areas such as school yards.



More information:

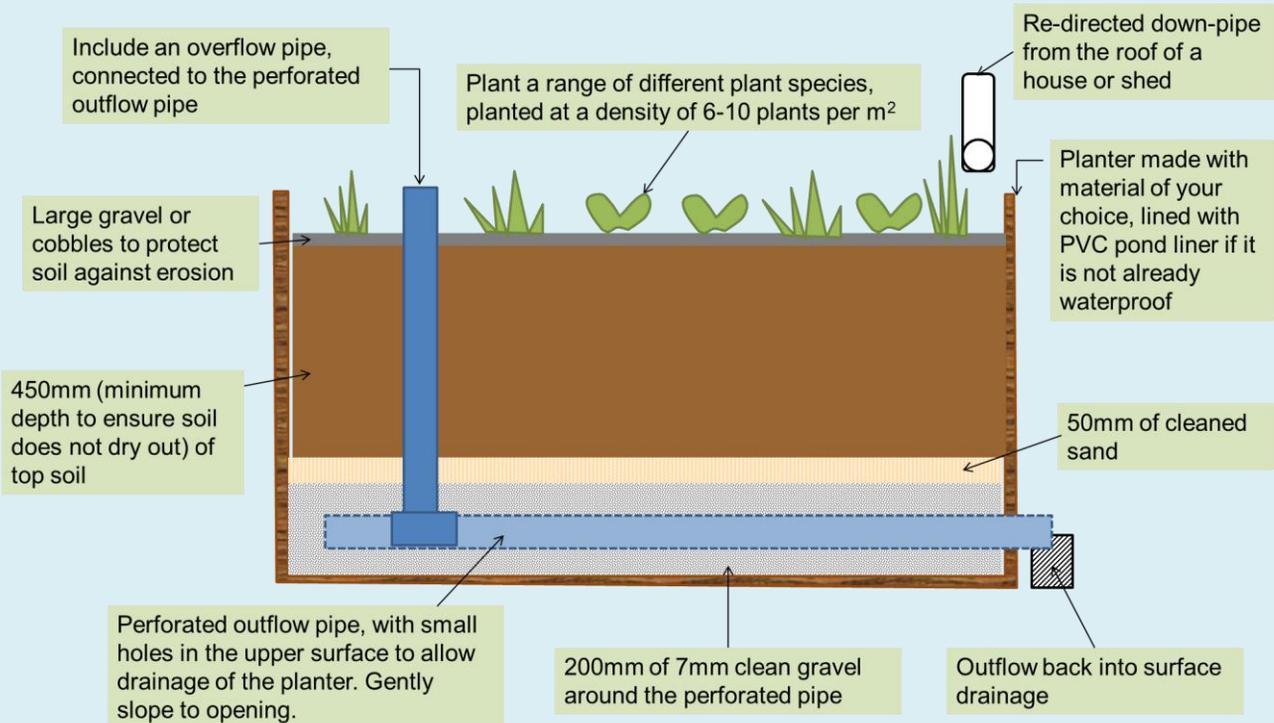
Read more about Rain Gardens at:

- www.welshwildlife.org
- www.raingardens.info



Creating your own Rain Garden Planter

1. The first step is to identify the drain that your planter will empty in to.
2. You will then need to work out how much water your Rain Garden Planter may need to hold in litres. Do this by multiplying the average rainfall of your area (mm) (find via an internet search) by the area of the roof it will be fed by in m². [1].
3. Decide how big you want the planter to be based on amount of water it will receive in high rainfall, and your own personal preference. It is recommended that the minimum planter depth is 45cm to provide adequate water storage. [2]
4. Build a planter with the following structure:



5. Re-direct the chosen downpipe into the planter. If you have any worries about the drainage, consult with your local plumber.
6. Sit back and enjoy your Rain Garden. Watch how it collects water when it rains.

[1] The Rain Garden Guide. Access www.raingardens.info

[2] City of Portland Environmental Services. 2004. Stormwater Management Manual.

[3] Melbourne Water. 2013. Building a Planter Box Raingarden.

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