



# Step by Step Raingarden How-to's

1. Call 651-454-0002 to locate buried utilities.

2. Determine how water runs across your property.

3. Choose a location where the raingarden will capture that water. It should be at least 10' from the basement and 4' from surfaces such as the foundation, garage floor, roadway or driveway. Avoid utilities as well.

4. If you have a wet spot in your yard at the bottom of a slope, place the garden upslope to catch the water before it runs downhill.

5. Layout the garden with a rope or garden hose.

6. Dig a hole where the garden will be, fill it with water and measure how many inches of water soak into the ground in 24 hours. Make the raingarden that many inches deep, but no deeper than 12".



7. Remove sod and soil 3" deeper than the depth of the raingarden. Then loosen the soil in the garden bed at least 9" below what you have removed.

9. Mix 3" of leaf compost into the soil.

10. Create an inlet and outlet and protect them from erosion with rocks or mulch.

11. Add 3" of double shredded hardwood mulch.

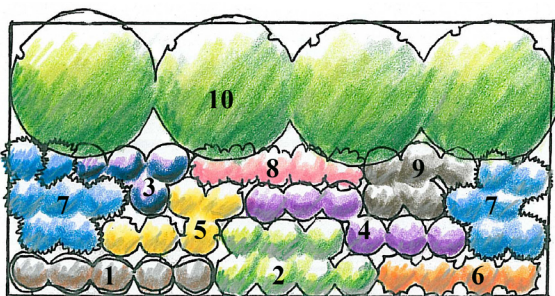
12. Plant!

13. Water as needed for the remainder of the season. After year one there is no need to water.

14. Weed the raingarden and enjoy the blooming plants, as well as birds and butterflies that come to use the garden and the compliments from your neighbors.

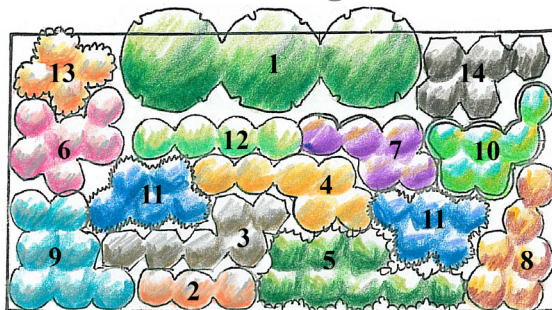
## Raingarden Blueprints

### Sunny Raingarden



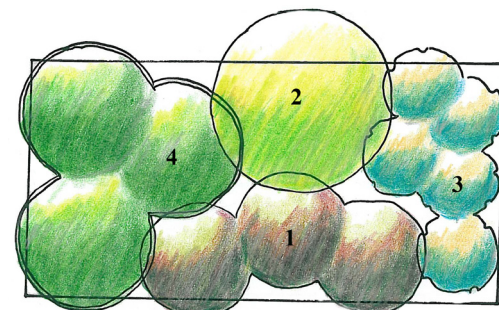
1 - Sedum (Sedum 'Autumn Joy'), 2 - Fox Sedge (Carex vulpinoidea), 3 - Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), 4 - Black Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'), 5 - Blue Flag Iris (Iris versicolor), 6 - Coreopsis (Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'), 7 - Shenandoah Switch Grass (Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'), 8 - Prairie Blazingstar (Liatris pycnostachya), 9 - Sky Blue Aster (Aster oolentangiensis), 10 - Compact American Viburnum (Viburnum trilobum 'Bailey Compact')

### Shade Raingarden



1 - Annabelle Hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens), 2 - Coral Bells (Heuchera micrantha 'Palace Purple'), 3 - Astilbe (Astilbe x hybrida 'Bressingham Beauty'), 4 - Turtlehead (Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'), 5 - Palm Sedge (Carex muskingumensis), 6 - Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium dubium 'Phantom'), 7 - Great Blue Lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica), 8 - Wild Geranium (Geranium maculatum), 9 - Jacobs Ladder (Polemonium caeruleum 'Brise D'Anjou'), 10 - Ray Flower (Ligularia dentata 'Desdemona'), 11 - Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis), 12 - False Solomon's Seal (Maianthemum racemosum), 13 - Culver's Root (Veronicastrum virginicum), 14 - Woodland Phlox (Phlox divaricata laphamii)

### Shrub Raingarden



1 - Summer Wine Ninebark (Physocarpus opulifolius 'Seward'), 2 - Regent Serviceberry (Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'), 3 - Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera), 4 - Dogwood (Cornus sericea 'Buds Yellow')







## Why raingardens?

A raingarden is simply a bowl shaped garden that is built where it will capture rain and snowmelt (stormwater runoff ) before the water carries pollutants to a storm sewer or nearby stream, lake or river.

### Properly designed raingardens:

- ✿ Beautify your landscape
- ✿ Reduce water pollution
- ✿ Reduce flooding and erosion
- ✿ Attract birds and butterflies
- ✿ Protect fish and other aquatic animals

### Raingardens DO NOT:

- ✿ attract mosquitoes
- ✿ hold water more than 2 days
- ✿ require more maintenance than other gardens
- ✿ cost lots of money



Square Lake  
Washington County



Blue Thumb is a Minnesota-based partnership of more than 60 organizations working cooperatively to promote native plants, raingardens, and shoreline plantings to keep our water clean.

This brochure was developed by



with funding from the  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



? Learn more about raingardens at  
**[www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org)**

# Raingardens

Plan today, plant tomorrow!



Bonnie Juran