



# GUIDELINES FOR HOME RAIN GARDENS



## 1. Select a Rain Garden Location Which Intercepts Stormwater Runoff

- Near a downspout – but 10 feet away from foundation
- In a front yard swale  
NOTE: Municipal approval needed for rain gardens in a public easement

## 2. Determine Rain Garden Size and Shape

- Map where rainwater flows and collects
- Start small...you can expand the garden in the future

## 3. Check Your Soils for Drainage

- Read SOCWA brochure for a simple drainage test

## 4. Select a Rain Garden Soil Mix

- For poorly drained sites, 70% compost and 30% sharp sand is recommended
- Do not use purchased top soil



## 5. Plant the Rain Garden

- Use native wildflowers and shrubs suited to the site
- Label your plants and keep records
- See [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org) for recommended plant species

## 6. Mulch the Rain Garden

- Use a natural organic mulch spread in a 2 inch layer
- Refresh the mulch annually

**No Fertilizer or Pesticides, Please!**



## 7. Maintain the Rain Garden

- Weed, edit, divide, and replant as needed
- Edge the garden twice per year to keep grass out
- See [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org) for rain garden maintenance guide

**For further information: [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org)**