

# A WaterSmart Rain Garden

A rain garden is a bowl-shaped, planted area designed to collect, absorb and filter stormwater, or rainwater, that runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs, parking lots and streets.

## How does a rain garden work?

Stormwater from impervious surfaces is directed into the rain garden. This slows the flow and gives it a chance to soak into the soil. As the stormwater moves through the rain garden, the soil, plants and mulch filter out pollutants. Any stormwater leaving the rain garden is cleaner as it enters the streambed or nearest body of water.

## How will a rain garden help?

Rain gardens protect water quality by helping to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. At the same time, less water is lost to runoff—more of the stormwater remains where it falls. A rain garden is an attractive landscape feature.

## What plants are used in a rain garden?

Native plants adapted to periods of both wet and dry conditions are best. Using native plants also helps to create a beautiful wildlife habitat.



## Rain Garden in Action



### What about mosquitoes?

There is no need to worry about mosquitoes in rain gardens. The plants and mulch in a rain garden help to keep the water clean and prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

[watersmart.tamu.edu](http://watersmart.tamu.edu)



The program is funded in part by the Texas A&M University System, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas A&M University AgCenter Extension.

RAIN2BIRD

girl scouts  
of san jesus

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