

RAIN GARDENING

A rain garden is a simple way homeowners can create a beautiful landscape that captures rain runoff, improves water quality, prevents stream bank erosion and restores wildlife habitat. Here is how it works: during a storm, rain is channeled from rooftops or driveways to a small depression (rain garden). This retains rainwater for a short time, allowing water to soak into the soil instead of rushing to the gutter. Adding native plants that thrive in wetlands and wet prairies creates habitat for wildlife such as frogs, dragonflies and birds and brings ecological balance into your yard.



Green Frog



Garden Spider



Buttonbush



Black-eyed Susan



New England Aster

Tips for Success

- 1 Before digging, call or visit Dig-Rite: **1-800-DIG-RITE** or www.motcall.com
- 2 Encourage wildlife: add rocks on which amphibians sun, a birdhouse, rushes for dragonflies to perch on, and a bench for you to enjoy the activity from.
- 3 Place the rain garden at least 10 feet from the foundation of your home, and plan an overflow route for the water, in case of a major storm event.
- 4 Incorporate stone steps, boulders, fences, or garden benches to give it a well-tended appearance that both you and your neighbors will enjoy.
- 5 Half of your plants can be water-loving sedges and rushes that slow water flow and decrease erosion. The other half can be showy flowering plants such as cardinal flower, blue-flag iris, New England aster, turtlehead and rose mallow.
- 6 Choose local-ecotype native plants for your rain garden. Use plants that bloom at different times to create a long flowering season.

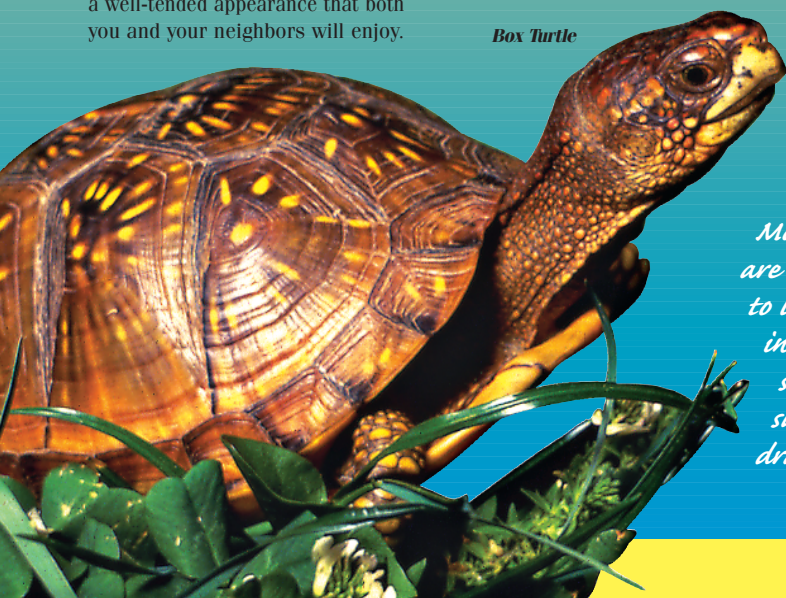


Pickereel Weed



Twelve-spotted Skimmer

Swamp Milkweed



Box Turtle



Leopard Frog

Mosquitoes are more likely to lay eggs in bird baths, storm sewers and gutters than in a sunny rain garden. Rain gardens attract dragonflies and frogs, that eat mosquitoes!

