Rain Garden Installation
Rain Garden Training for Landscapers
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Installation Steps

• Remove existing grass
• Excavate to the desired depth
• Add soil amendments
• Prepare the berm
• Prepare the overflow
• Level the ponding area
• Plant the vegetation
• Apply the mulch
• Water the vegetation

Sumner Elementary School, Camden County

MATERIALS NEEDED

• Soil amendments (if necessary)
  – Fertilizer
  – pH adjustment (lime)
  – Coarse sand (bank run)
• Vegetation
• Triple-shredded hardwood mulch (no dye)
• Soaker hose & landscaping pins
• Optional
  – Decorative stone/ pavers
  – Landscaping fabric & pins
  – Pipe extensions
  – Grass seed/sod

TOOLS NEEDED

• Work crew (5-10 people)
• Back hoe or bobcat (optional)
• Shovels (flat and round)
• Soil rakes
• Rototiller ($500 - $1,000 investment, or rent one)
• Survey equipment or string level with stakes and mason string
• Knives to cut root balls
• Hand trowels
• Wheelbarrows
• Rakes (for spreading mulch)

Leonard Park, Morris County
Hurffville Elementary School, Gloucester County
Remove Existing Grass

Q: What do you do with the existing grass before starting the rain garden?
A: Remove the turf as sod pieces. You can reuse it on the berm or another area of the yard.

Excavate to the Desired Depth

Leonard Park, Morris County
Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds
Installation Steps

**Excavate to the Desired Depth**

*Remember not to compact the rain garden’s soil while excavating!*

Installation Steps

**Prepare the Berm, if necessary**

Leonard Park, Morris County
Installation Steps

Add Soil Amendments, if necessary

Installation Steps

Prepare the Overflow

Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds

Leonard Park, Morris County
Level the Lowest Zone (Base)

Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center, Cumberland County

Figure 4. Plants at base of a 6-inch deep Rain Garden
Installation Steps

Plant the Vegetation

Planting Hole Same Depth as Root Ball

- ReBuilder's Source, South Bronx, New York
- Hockman Farm, Winchester, Virginia

Installation Steps

Plant the Native Plants

- Cut the Root Ball
- Ulster County, New York
Apply the Mulch

Protect Small Plants when Mulching

Ulster County, New York

Water the Vegetation

Hockman Farm, Winchester, Virginia
Installation Steps

Appreciate a Job Well Done!

ReBuilder's Source, South Bronx, NY