

DEMO RAIN GARDEN

Effingham County

PURDUE EXTENSION
**RAINSCAPING
 EDUCATION
 PROGRAM**

Background Information

In October of 2021, a rain garden was established at the University of Illinois Extension Office located in Effingham, Illinois. This was a partnership with the Effingham County Master Gardeners, Watershed Outreach in the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy with Illinois Extension, and Effingham County Extension.



There is a large sloped parking lot at the Extension office in Effingham that leads to an area that is wet most of the year. This site was chosen to collect some of the storm water coming from the Extension office and slow its progression to the wet area. It is a site that is visible to the public and will be used for educational and teaching programs as well as a conversation topic. This should decrease the amount of water that sheets off the parking lot into the wet area during rain events.

The infiltration test revealed one basic soil type in the area which allowed water to move quickly across the ground to the wet area. To overcome this, the rain garden slopes from level ground to a 6" deep trough. The area receives full sun. The plant species were selected for full sun tolerance. All plants are native to Illinois and purchased from Southernwood Gardens, a native plant grower and nursery, located in Alto Pass, Illinois. Two types of hardwood mulch, regular and doubled ground, were purchased from a local vendor, Heartland Landscaping, Inc. in Effingham. Plants and mulch were provided by University of Illinois Extension – Effingham County. Mycorrhizal inoculum was added at the time of planting and provided through grant funds. Site excavation was provided by the Josh and Amy Tegler family. One planting day was selected with three Master Gardeners, one volunteer, and two University of Illinois Extension staff. Approximately 100 plants were installed in this garden.



Demo Rain Garden: Effingham County

Garden Design: Plantings and Information

Plant Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Columbine
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Marsh Blazingstar
<i>Liatris pyconastachya 'Kobold'</i>	Prairie Blazingstar
<i>Eupatorium purpuream</i>	Joe-Pye Weed
<i>Acorus americanus</i>	Sweet Flag Iris
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Red Lobelia
<i>Baptisia alba</i>	White Indigo
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed



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Maintenance Plan: Establishment Period

- Weeding-every 2-4 weeks for first 6 months
- Track progress of garden and water and replace plants as needed

Maintenance Plan: General Maintenance

- Fertilizing: Not necessary
- Watering: As needed, during dry spells in the summer
- Weeding: As necessary, especially check in Spring
- Mulch: As necessary, check yearly

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Maintenance Plan: Seasonal Maintenance

- Year round: Weeding
- Spring: Weeding, prune dead vegetation and overgrown plants, add mulch and new plants (if needed)
- Summer: Watering, as needed
- Fall: Remove diseased plants; leave most leaves and plants
- Winter: Remove any debris that accumulates in garden

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Resource Contact

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About the Purdue Rainscaping Education Program

The Purdue Rainscaping Education Program offers state-wide training for Purdue Master Gardeners, conservation agencies and organizations, stormwater professionals, and landscape companies and consultants.

The two day workshop sessions cover an introduction to rainscaping and rain gardens with specific modules for rain garden site selection, plant selection and garden design, installation, maintenance, and community engagement.

Workshops include hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and field trips to community rainscaping projects. Participants also gain experience through creation of a demonstration rain garden with community partners in a public space.

