THE FUN PART!
INSTALLING YOUR RAIN GARDEN
PROVIDENCE, RI
MARCH 31, 2011-APRIL 1, 2011
GETTING STARTED

• It is most effective to start the actual construction of the rain garden in the spring when the abundant rains will allow for best plant establishment and easier digging

• Summer/autumn start will also work, but the plants may need more watering until they become established
INSTALLATION STEPS

1. Remove existing grass
2. Excavate to desired elevation and grade
3. Add soil amendments
INSTALLATION STEPS

4. Prepare berm (if necessary)
5. Prepare overflow
6. Level the base (lowest area)
7. Plant native species
8. Apply mulch
9. Water plants
TOOLS & MATERIALS NEEDED

- Rakes and shovels
- Rototiller
- Wheelbarrow
- String level or survey equipment
- Measuring tape
- Triple-shredded hardwood mulch
- Plants

- Soil amendments, if necessary: fertilizer, pH adjustments (lime), coarse sand
- Optional: decorative stone, signage, seating, pipe extensions, pavers for path
- Work crew (friends, neighbors, and family)
STEP ONE

• Delineate rain garden area

• Remove existing grass with a shovel or machinery
STEP TWO

- Excavate to design depth based on necessary storage and soil amendment requirements

Rain Gardens at Roger Williams Park

BEFORE

Grade

6" Loamy Sand

Total Depth = 18"

12" Fill
STEP THREE

• Add soil amendments, if necessary

- Combine amendments with existing soil using shovels or rototiller
- Loosen and prepare soil for grading and planting
STEP FOUR

- Prepare the berm, if necessary
STEP FIVE

• Prepare the overflow
STEP SIX

• Level the rain garden base
STEP SEVEN

• Plant native species

Rain Gardens at Roger Williams Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aquilegia canadensis</td>
<td>Wild columbine</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird'</td>
<td>Sweet pepperbush</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dicentra eximia 'Alba'</td>
<td>Wild Bleeding Heart</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ilex glabra 'Shamrock'</td>
<td>Inkberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite'</td>
<td>Winterberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'</td>
<td>Virginia sweetspire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>Cardinal flower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Vaccinium angustifolium</td>
<td>Lowbush Blueberry</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spacing | Plants per ft²
---|---
12” on center | 4.00
18” on center | 1.00
24” on center | 0.25
30” on center | 0.16
3’ on center | 0.11
5’ on center | 0.04

• Dig planting hole deep and wide enough to let roots hang vertically to bottom of hole
• For root-bound plants, make several vertical cuts to sides of rootball
• Rootball should be entirely enveloped by soil. Backfill and water.
STEP EIGHT

• Apply the mulch
  • Triple shredded hardwood, no dyes
  • 2”-3” layer over garden, leave space surrounding plant stems
STEP NINE

• Water plants
STEP TEN

• Appreciate a job well done!
INSTALLATION SUMMARY

At time of installation

First growing season

Second growing season

Photos courtesy of: United States Department of Agriculture and Madeleine Rahnke Difazio
Thank You

Questions?

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