

## Rain Gardens

As recently reported in the East Amwell VIP the East Amwell Environmental Commission is involved in an effort to raise awareness in the management of stormwater runoff by supporting the construction of rain gardens.



**What's the Fuss?** - Residential properties are significant, documented sources for the stormwater runoff responsible for much of the impacts observed in our streams. Too much runoff results in stream bank erosion and flooding. And the pollutants transported with stormwater runoff degrade stream water quality and compromise their ability to support fish, amphibians and other wildlife.

**Why are Rain Gardens a Solution?** - Rain gardens are a proven means of decreasing the amount of runoff and pollutants leaving our properties. They are a recognized way to improve and protect the quality of our streams. Rain gardens are simple, attractive, easy to construct and easy to maintain. Rain garden vegetation filters, assimilates, and traps the sediment and pollutants mobilized and transported by stormwater runoff. Rain garden soils help detain and infiltrate runoff, thus decreasing the rate and volume of runoff leaving your property.

**How Do I learn More About Rain Gardens?** – This sounds great but how do I go about constructing a rain garden on my property? The East Amwell Environmental Commission is embarking on a program to introduce residents to rain gardens and make it easy for residents to construct a rain garden on their property. As a starting point though we suggest that interested residents visit the Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station website and download their very comprehensive Rain Garden Manual....

[http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain\\_Gardens/RGWebsite/RainGardenManualofNJ.html](http://water.rutgers.edu/Rain_Gardens/RGWebsite/RainGardenManualofNJ.html)

A similar manual is available from the University of Connecticut....

<http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/index.htm>

And there is even a rain garden app that you can download on your smart phone....

<http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/app/raingarden.htm>

It's as easy of that! Both manuals and the app provide a trove of information on where to locate, how to properly size and how to construct and plant your rain garden. So what are you waiting for...get creative and help manage stormwater runoff with your own rain garden!



Photos Courtesy of Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station