

What is a raingarden?

A raingarden resembles a regular garden with one major difference – it is positioned to receive stormwater from hard surfaces such as a downpipe from a roof, paved areas or roads.

Using layers of soil, gravel for filtration and planted with a combination of plants, shrubs and grasses, a raingarden reduces the amount of run-off that would otherwise wash pollutants into the stormwater system and our rivers and creeks.

Raingardens come in many different shapes and sizes. You can create a raingarden in a raised planter box or to catch the overflow from your rainwater tank. You can even build a vegetable raingarden which is sub-irrigated, which means that water enters at the base of the raingarden.

Why build a raingarden?

Anyone can create a raingarden. They are a creative, low cost and easy to maintain way in which you can make better use of rain and stormwater that falls on your property. Building a raingarden is a simple way to help the environment and the health of our local waterways while providing a self-watering garden for your backyard.

Please note: A certified plumber must be used for stormwater connections and modifications.



Tips for a healthy raingarden

Raingardens are low maintenance, especially when planted with native plant species. They don't need to be separately watered, mowed or fertilised. However, a few simple tips can help your raingarden to mature and function well.

- Cover your raingarden with gravel mulch to retain moisture.
- Weed regularly until plants have matured.
- Evenly distribute water flow into your garden to limit erosion from heavy rainfall. Strategically placed rocks may help with this.
- Inspect your garden regularly – replace plants and repair erosion in your garden when necessary.

For raingarden factsheets and for more information on the Cooks River visit

www.cooksriver.org.au

Get in touch with us at:

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Build your own Raingarden



Help improve the health of the Cooks River and make better use of rain and stormwater for use in your own garden.

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The Cooks River Alliance is a partnership between Bayside Council, City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council, City of Sydney Council, Inner West Council and Strathfield Council.

Choosing the right plants for a typical raingarden

A wide range of species are suitable for raingardens and your local nursery can guide you on what is right for your area. When choosing plants for your raingarden make sure that they:

- Are able to tolerate short periods of inundation followed by longer dry periods,
- Are perennial rather than annual,
- Have deep fibrous root systems, and
- Could form understory if grown with shrubs and trees.

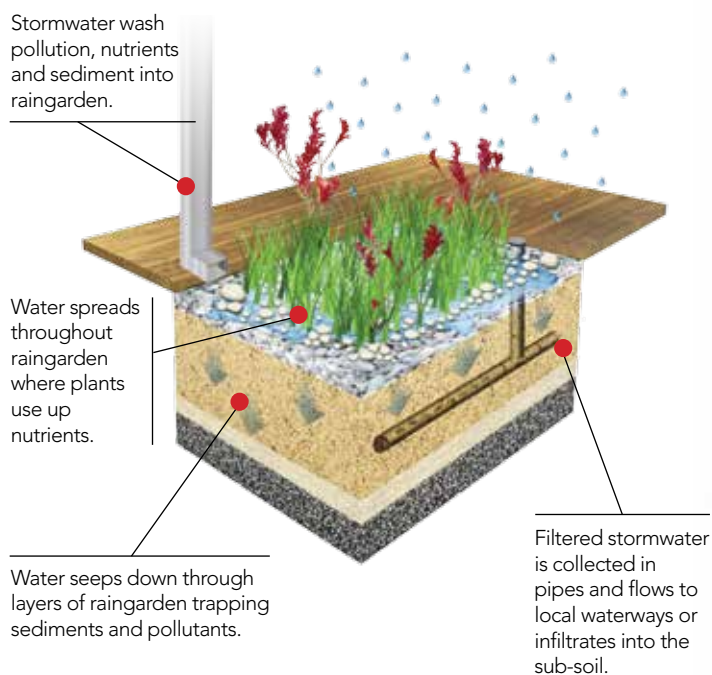
Choosing the right plants for a vegetable raingarden

A wide range of vegetables can be grown in your vegetable raingarden including tomatoes, beans, lettuce, spinach, cucumber, beetroot, onions and leeks. Herbs such as basil and parsley should also grow well.

See our range of Factsheets for further information on raingardens and water sensitive urban design. These are available from www.cooksriver.org.au



How a typical raingarden works



How a vegetable raingarden works

