

Delivering Better Water Management With Sustainable Garden Design

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Garden Design considerations that are good for the environment and help conserve/preserve water resources:

- Hardscapes
 - Use local materials
 - Reuse/recycle materials
- Storm water management
 - Keep paved areas to a minimum
 - Pave with porous materials
 - Grasspave², Gravelpave², porous asphalt or concrete, crushed stone
- Select appropriate plants
- Lawn alternatives
 - Explore *Carex*, *Juncus*, buffalo grass or other groundcovers
- Incorporate stormwater infiltration systems into landscapes
 - Utilize “best management practices”
 - Water that falls on a site—deal with on the site
 - Examples
 - Infiltration bed (rain garden)
 - Biostream
 - Recharge swale (bioretention)
 - Underground infiltration system (dry well)
 - Capture and reuse (rain barrel or cistern)
 - Green roofs and living walls

Horticulture magazine’s “Six Tips for Watering Wisely”—

- Don’t irrigate trees and shrubs
- More rain, less water
- Plan ahead to get away with no water
- Water deeply or don’t water at all
- Water the soil, not the leaves
- Don’t waste water

Additional information-- Books and Websites:

Snodgrass, Edmund and Lucie Snodgrass. **Green Roof Plants: A Resource and Planting Guide**. 2006. Timber Press. Portland, OR.

Dunnet, Nigel and Noel Kingsbury. **Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls**. 2004. Timber Press. Portland, OR.

Dunnet, Nigel and Andy Clayden. **Rain Gardens: Sustainable Rainwater Management for the Garden and Designed Landscape**. 2007. Timber Press. Portland, OR.

Website of the home and garden of Marcus de la Fleur featuring a sustainable home garden:
www.delafleur.com/168_Elm/

Cambridge Department of Public Works, list of websites about rain gardens:
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/stormwater/pdf/RainGardens.pdf>

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Office of Coastal Zone Management
“Stormwater Management” manual <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/swmpolv2.pdf>

Massachusetts Riverways Program, “Building a Rain Garden” and list of suitable plants for
Massachusetts: <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/river/pdf/raingardenfactsheet.pdf>

A Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management (plans for rain gardens, dry wells and
meadows: <http://www.delawareestuary.org/pdf/HomeownersGuideSWMgmt.pdf>

The Sustainable Sites Initiative: <http://www.sustainableites.org/>