



# *Plant a Rain Garden*

You live in Florida, so you know what happens in the summer: It rains just about every afternoon. But a little extra water shouldn't scare you, in fact you can use it to make a beautiful and environmentally friendly rain garden.

## **Why Plant a Rain Garden?**

A rain garden is an area in your yard that collects and naturally filters rain water before it enters the groundwater system. This helps keep metals, fertilizers and pesticides from entering the groundwater. It also keeps some water out of the storm water system which runs right into rivers and the bay, and instead allows it to soak into the groundwater system. A rain garden can also be helpful in solving drainage issues. Have a wet area that always looks messy? Create a rain garden and you'll transform it into the focal point of your garden.

## **Planting a Rain Garden**

1. Select plants that don't mind having wet feet. (A few of our favorites are below).
2. Dig the area out a little to make a place for the water to go. Remember you aren't creating a pond or a place for standing water, just an area that can catch the water so that it slowly drains.
3. Use decorative rocks and boulders to outline the area and help hold the water in the garden as it seeps into the soil.
4. Now plant the plants, and wait for a rainy day!

## **Plants for Rain Gardens:**

Milkweed, Cardinal Flower, Mexican Petunia, Canna Lily, Alocasia & Colocasia, Muhly Grass, Holly Fern, Blue Flag Iris, Virginia Willow, Flamingo Flower, Shrimp Plant

## **Shrubs and Trees:**

Wax Myrtle, Bald Cypress, River Birch, Red Maple, Weeping Willow



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