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REINNVIGORATE YOUR RAIN GARDEN



Keeping up any garden, including low-maintenance rain gardens requires some effort. Weeds move in, plants outgrow their space and some desirable plants die. Add to this the challenge of maintaining the area around the garden and keeping the water flowing from the roof, walks, and lawn to the garden. There are ways to manage these challenges and create an attractive garden that helps manage the water that falls in your yard.

WEEDS

- Get to know your rain garden plants from sprout to maturity
 - Take a picture of the young plants by the plant tag
 - Sketch your garden plan
 - Take pictures after planting and throughout the season
 - Check out *The Gardener's Guide to Prairie Plants* by Neil Diboll and Hillary Cox
- Get to know the weeds
 - Weeds are plants out of place
 - Usually occur in large numbers, spread throughout the garden
 - Resources:
 - Common Weed Seedlings of the North Central States
 - Plant and Weed Identification
 - Weed Seedling Identification

A FEW COMMON WEEDS

- Bindweed
 - Perennial with very deep roots, spreads by seeds and rhizomes
 - Pull every 3 weeks for 3 years
 - Seeds can remain viable for up to 50 years
- Prostrate Knotweed
 - Annual
 - Common in compacted soils
 - Pull plant before it sets seed
 - Mulch

- Vertical mulch if soil is compacted

- Spotted Spurge
 - Summer annual
 - Pull plant before it sets seed
 - Mulch
- Purslane
 - Summer annual
 - Common in hot, dry weather
 - Pull plant before it sets seed
- Creeping Charlie
 - Perennial
 - Thrives in moist, shady areas, but will creep into the sun
 - Pull and maintain a weed-free zone around the rain garden
 - Skip the Borax as this can be harmful to desirable plants
- Henbit
 - Winter annual
 - Most are part sun to shade tolerant, but also sun tolerant
 - Pull plant before sets seed
 - The difference between henbit and creeping Charlie
- Common Chickweed
 - Annual
 - Sun to shade
 - Pull plant before it sets seed

Fresh Coast Guardians

Fresh Coast Guardians are everyday people who love Lake Michigan and want to protect it.

You can help us prevent polluted storm runoff from reaching our waterways by managing water better when it rains or snows.

Learn more at
freshcoastguardians.com

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- **Mouse Ear Chickweed**
 - Annual or perennial in milder climates
 - Sun to part shade
 - Remove, roots and all, before plants set seed

- **Lambsquarters**
 - Fast growing annual
 - **Found in vacant areas and gardens**

- **Nutsedge**
 - Perennial grass-like plant common in poorly drained, wet locations
 - Dig 10" deep, 8 to 10" beyond infestation
 - Sift soil to remove nutlets before placing back in the garden
 - Or, dispose and replace with new soil

- **Crabgrass**
 - Warm season annual
 - Fibrous roots
 - Pull plant before it sets seed
 - Mulch

- **Quackgrass**
 - Perennial
 - Spreads by rhizomes
 - Must remove **ALL** the rhizomes to manage this weed
 - Carefully and slowly lift the weed out of moist soil, allowing you to remove more of the rhizomes

- **Thistles**
 - Annual, biennial, perennial
 - Dig rosette of leaves as soon as possible
 - Repeat as needed
 - Mulch
 - **Bringing Back Native Thistles**
 - **How to Differentiate from Native Thistles**

- Healthy plants are best able to outcompete the weeds
- Early intervention when plants are small
 - Easier to pull
 - Remove before they set seed, creating hundreds more to pull
 - Remove before they set seed, creating hundreds more to pull
- ***Use non-chemical control options to avoid negative impacts on your native plants, songbirds and beneficial insects***
- Non-chemical weed management
 - In most cases, dig or pull when soil is moist
 - Remove weeds when small
 - Tools
 - Hand dig with HoriHori knife or other weeding tool
 - Stand up weeder
 - * Tool grasps the weed and pulls it out of the ground
 - * No bending needed
 - Garden fork
 - * Lift larger weeds along with their roots
 - Once weeds removed - mulch
 - Use a hardwood mulch that won't float away in heavy rains
 - Physically edge the garden to slow the infiltration of weeds and grass

MMSD

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) mission is to protect public health and the environment.

MMSD is a regional government agency that provides water reclamation and flood management services for 1.1 million people in 28 communities in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

Learn more at [mmsd.com](https://www.mmsd.com)



PLANTS THAT HAVE OUTGROWN THEIR LOCATION OR TAKING OVER THE GARDEN

- Remove and dispose of invasive and overly aggressive plants
- Dig and divide those that are more manageable
 - Use sharp spade to dig and lift clump
 - Divide into smaller divisions using weed knife, drywall saw, shovel, 2 garden forks back-to-back or reciprocating saw
 - Discard dead center in compost pile, if needed
 - Amend soil with compost before adding divisions into garden
 - Water thoroughly, as needed, throughout the growing season

OVERGROWN RAIN GARDEN

- You may opt to start over, or
- Start by removing weeds and aggressive plants
 - Canadian Goldenrod is very aggressive
 - Less aggressive goldenrods:
 - Ohio Goldenrod - *Oligoneuron ohioensis* (*Solidago ohioensis*)
 - * Full sun
 - * Medium moist soil
 - * Zones 4 to 6
 - Stiff Goldenrod - *Solidago rigida*
 - * Full sun
 - * Dry to medium soil
 - * Zones 3 to 9
 - Showy Goldenrod - *Solidago speciosa*
 - * Full sun
 - * Dry to medium soil
 - * Zones 3 to 8

- Well behaved grasses
 - Switchgrass cultivars - *Panicum virgatum*
 - Full sun
 - Dry to moist soil
 - Zones 3 to 10
 - Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*
 - Full sun
 - Medium to dry soil
 - Zones 3 to 10
 - Indiangrass - *Sorghastrum nutans*
 - Full sun
 - Dry to moist soil
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - Sideoats Grama - *Bouteloua curtipendula*
 - Full sun
 - Medium to dry soil
 - Zones 3 to 9
 - Prairie Dropseed - *Sporobolus heterolepis*
 - Full sun
 - Medium to dry soil
 - Zones 3 to 8

RAIN GARDEN PROJECT IN MICHIGAN

- Consider consulting with your local DNR, Water Resources Office...
- [SEMCOG - Southeast Michigan Council of Government](#)
- [Water Resources Washtenaw County](#)
- [Design of Rain Gardens and Bioretention Systems](#)
- No need to add gravel beneath the rain garden if:
 - [Rain garden is large enough to handle the water](#)
 - Soil drains well - amending with organic matter encourages proper drainage



About Melinda

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist Melinda Myers has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Can't Miss Small Space Gardening, the recently revised Midwest Gardener's Handbook, and Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy. She hosts the nationally-syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" program airing on radio stations throughout the U.S. Melinda also hosts the internationally distributed Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD/Instant Video series, including the latest Food Gardening for Everyone DVD set. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, and writes a nationally-distributed gardening column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.

Visit Melinda's website,
melindamyers.com

- Try to capture the sand
 - Some place stones at water entry point
 - Catch basins strategically placed
 - Berm on far side to help capture water and slow velocity of any that overflows the garden in heavy rains
 - Regularly remove sediment that collects

OTHER RESOURCES

- [Be a Waterwise Gardener](#) webinar
 - Enter password kq8+!i4S
 - [Download handout](#)
- [How to Select Rain Garden Plants](#) webinar
 - [Download handout](#)
- [Rain Garden Q & A](#) webinar
 - [Download handout](#)



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UPCOMING APPEARANCES & WEBINARS

Check often as more appearances and webinars continue to be added.

April 12th

Pasquesi Home & Gardens

April 26th

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

May 3rd

Gardening Talk @ North Lake School

Webinar May 7th

Vertical Gardening

May 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

Webinar May 15th

7 Steps to Managing Water on Your Property

Webinar June 4th

Attracting Hummingbirds

June 8th

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

June 14th

Ebert's Greenhouse Village

June 20th

Pollinator Celebration



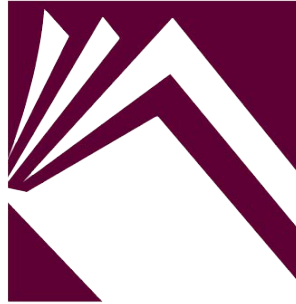


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*Thank You to Fresh Coast Guardians and MMSD for
Sponsoring this Webinar!*



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Thank You to Milwaukee Public Library for Hosting this Webinar!

Melinda's Garden Moment AUDIO TIPS
Melinda's Garden Moment VIDEO TIPS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
MONTHLY GARDENING CHECKLISTS & MORE
BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER TO GET TIMELY GARDENING TIPS AND A CHANCE TO WIN



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DVD SERIES

Food Gardening for Everyone
Make Your Trees and Shrubs Thrive
Your Best Garden and Landscape
Container Tips and Techniques

BOOKS

Midwest Gardener's Handbook
Small Space Gardening
Midwest Lawn Guides
Minnesota & Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide
Month-by-Month Gardening in Minnesota & Wisconsin
Michigan Getting Started Garden Guide
Month-by-Month Gardening in Michigan
Month-by-Month Gardening in Iowa



Birds & Blooms Magazine

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