

## Rain Garden App



A mobile app for designing, installing, and maintaining a rain garden



# PLANNING TO BUILD A RAIN GARDEN?

## ABOUT THE APP

The University of Georgia EcoScapes Sustainable Land Use Program has collaborated with the University of Connecticut and a team representing 13 states to develop a free smartphone app to help homeowners, landscapers and contractors design, install and maintain rain gardens.

The Rain Garden app is available for both iPhones and Android smartphones.

## A NEW TOOL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Rain gardens play an important role in sustainable landscapes because they are a natural way to manage stormwater runoff, a major source of pollution in our waterways and a cause of erosion, sewer overflows and flooding.

Rain gardens collect stormwater runoff from roofs, driveways and yards and allow the water to infiltrate the ground. The gardens typically include native plants, which can withstand high levels of moisture and nutrients, and create colorful wildlife habitat areas.

The new multi-state Rain Garden app includes video tutorials, diagrams, text and tools, to help you determine the size and placement of your garden, and will guide you through selecting native plants, as well as digging, planting and maintaining your garden.

UGA's EcoScapes Program contributed the Georgia rain garden native plant database for the app, which allows Georgians to choose from a variety of grasses, shrubs, colorful flowers and trees suitable for specific regions of the state.

Georgia users also will find soil drainage maps, a Google Maps-based sizing tool and Georgia "Call Before You Dig" contacts.

## RAIN GARDENS AND NATIVE PLANTS

In a healthy natural landscape such as a forest, meadow or wetland, vegetation plays an important role, along with soils, to naturally manage rainwater. A rain garden is a green infrastructure stormwater management practice modeled after natural ecosystems.

Rain gardens are depressions about 6-12 inches deep, typically filled with water-tolerant native plants. The gardens hold standing water and usually drain within 24-48 hours, a time-frame not suitable for mosquito breeding.



## THE RAIN GARDEN APP COLLABORATIVE

The Rain Garden app originally was developed for Connecticut by the University of Connecticut Center for Landuse Education and Research (CLEAR) and Connecticut Sea Grant. The UGA EcoScapes Sustainable Land Use Program collaborated with CLEAR and a team from 13 states to develop the expanded version of the app, which now includes data for Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Vermont.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Visit the EcoScapes demonstration rain garden 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday at UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, 715 Bay Street, Brunswick, Ga. More information, including directions for using the app, can be found online at: [gacoast.uga.edu/ecoscap.es](http://gacoast.uga.edu/ecoscap.es).

Contact:  
Keren Giovengo  
EcoScapes Program Manager  
[giovengo@uga.edu](mailto:giovengo@uga.edu)



Marine Extension and  
Georgia Sea Grant  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

