



# Harvest the Heavens!

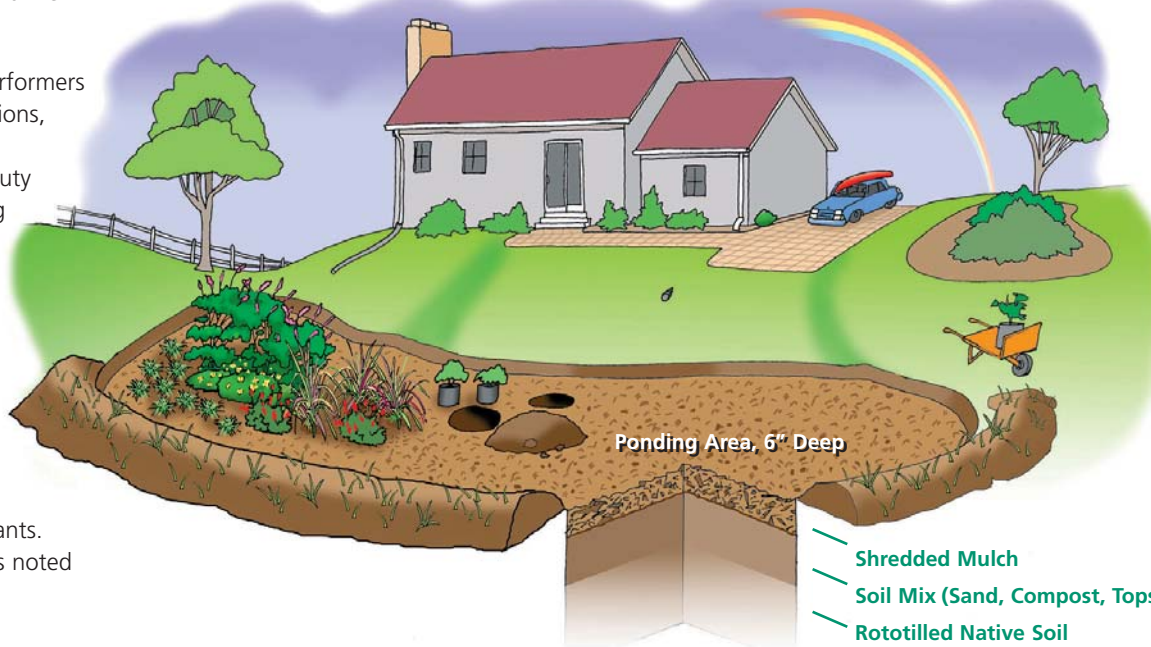
Rainscapes recreate natural ecosystems to help soil capture and filter rain water, which prevents pollution runoff and erosion, while also recharging groundwater supplies. From simple rain barrels to elaborate rain gardens, Rainscapes are a wonderful mix of innovative approaches which help conserve our natural resources while creating habitat areas full of beauty and life.

## Plant Selection

Use native plants whenever possible. These proven performers are ideally suited to our region's environmental conditions, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Design for color and beauty throughout the year by choosing plants that produce blooms, seeds, berries, or other fruit, in a variety of seasons. It's best to group plants together by height, moisture, and sunlight requirements. Also, select plants which enjoy moist conditions, but which will also tolerate periods of drought.



Here's a partial list of commonly available native plants. Most are tolerant of either sun or partial shade, unless noted otherwise.



## Rain Barrels

Collect and store clean, chemical-free rainwater for when you most need it, whether watering plants, washing cars and windows, or topping off ponds. You can easily make your own or purchase them either as kits or fully-assembled. Connect two or more together for increased storage capacity.



## Rain Gardens

Transform a drab corner of your landscape into a dynamic, rain-driven ecosystem! Just create a modest ponding area or bermed depression in your yard, improve the soil, and add an eye-popping assortment of native plants. You'll soon capture thousands of gallons of runoff, using each valuable drop to nurture a vibrant new garden.

For more information, visit us online at

[rainscapes.org](http://rainscapes.org)

Rainscapes: A Partnership of the Potomac Conservancy and the Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery County, Maryland.



- Ferns & Grasses**
- Big Bluestem ☀
  - Cinnamon Fern
  - Little Bluestem
  - Red Fescue
  - Royal Fern
  - Switchgrass ☀



Gayfeather or Blazing Star  
*Liatris spicata*



Swamp Sunflower  
*Helianthus angustifolius*

- Herbaceous Plants**
- Bee Balm/Wild Bergamot
  - Boneset/White Snakeroot
  - Butterfly Weed ☀
  - Cardinal Flower
  - Coneflower (various)
  - Eastern Columbine
  - Goldenrod (various)
  - Great Blue Lobelia



Red-osier Dogwood  
*Cornus sericea [stolonifera]*

- Joe Pye Weed ☀
- Milkweed (Swamp & Common)
- New England Aster
- New York Ironweed ☀
- Swamp Sunflower ☀
- Virginia Bluebells
- Wild Blue Phlox
- Wild Geranium



Winterberry  
*Ilex verticillata*

- Small Trees & Shrubs**
- American Holly
  - Buttonbush ☀
  - Elderberry
  - High Bush Blueberry
  - Silky Dogwood
  - Viburnum (various)
  - Winterberry



Viburnum  
Various Species



Cardinal Flower  
*Lobelia cardinalis*



Joe-pye Weed  
*Eupatorium fistulosum*