

Gardening For Water Quality: Rain Gardens



Bacopa monnieri (Aeae), foreground, and *Cyperus javanicus* (Ahuawa), middle



Department of Natural Sciences, Madison, Wisconsin

DATE: Saturday, June 27, 2009
LOCATION: Meet at Hui Ku Maoli Ola Nursery, 46-403 Haiku Road, Kaneohe
REGISTRATION: Call 780-8872 or 295-7777. Workshop capacity is limited.

MORNING SESSION (9-Noon): Introduces purpose, design, function and implementation of a rain garden. Also Adopt-A-Stream Bank Stabilization Project Highlights. Bring your own lunch.
AFTERNOON SESSION (1-3pm): Hands-on implementation of the rain garden.

WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a storm water sustainable practice that forms a “bioretention area” by collecting water runoff and storing it to be filtered and slowly absorbed by the soil. The bioretention concept is based on the hydrologic function of forest habitat, in which the forest produces a spongy litter layer that soaks up water and allows it to slowly penetrate the soil layer.

A nutrient removal or “filtering” process takes place as the water comes in contact with the soil and roots. This process accounts for improved water quality. The first flush of rain water is ponded in the depression of the rain garden and contains the highest concentration of polluted run off from hard surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots.

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