

# Build a Rain Garden like a Pro

Rain gardens temporarily store rainwater and slowly release it into the soil, reducing the amount of runoff from your property and flooding downstream.

## Step 1: Pick a location

Locate your rain garden where rainwater will feed into it from downspouts, driveways, or low points in your yard. Direct water to your garden with swales or drainpipes.

Remember, build at least 10 feet away from your home and avoid underground utility lines and septic systems.

## Step 2: Start digging

The average residential rain garden is 100 – 300 square feet depending on soil type, garden depth, and drainage size.

Remove the sod and dig a shallow depression approximately 6 inches deep. Use the removed soil to build a berm along the shallow side of the garden to help contain the stormwater.

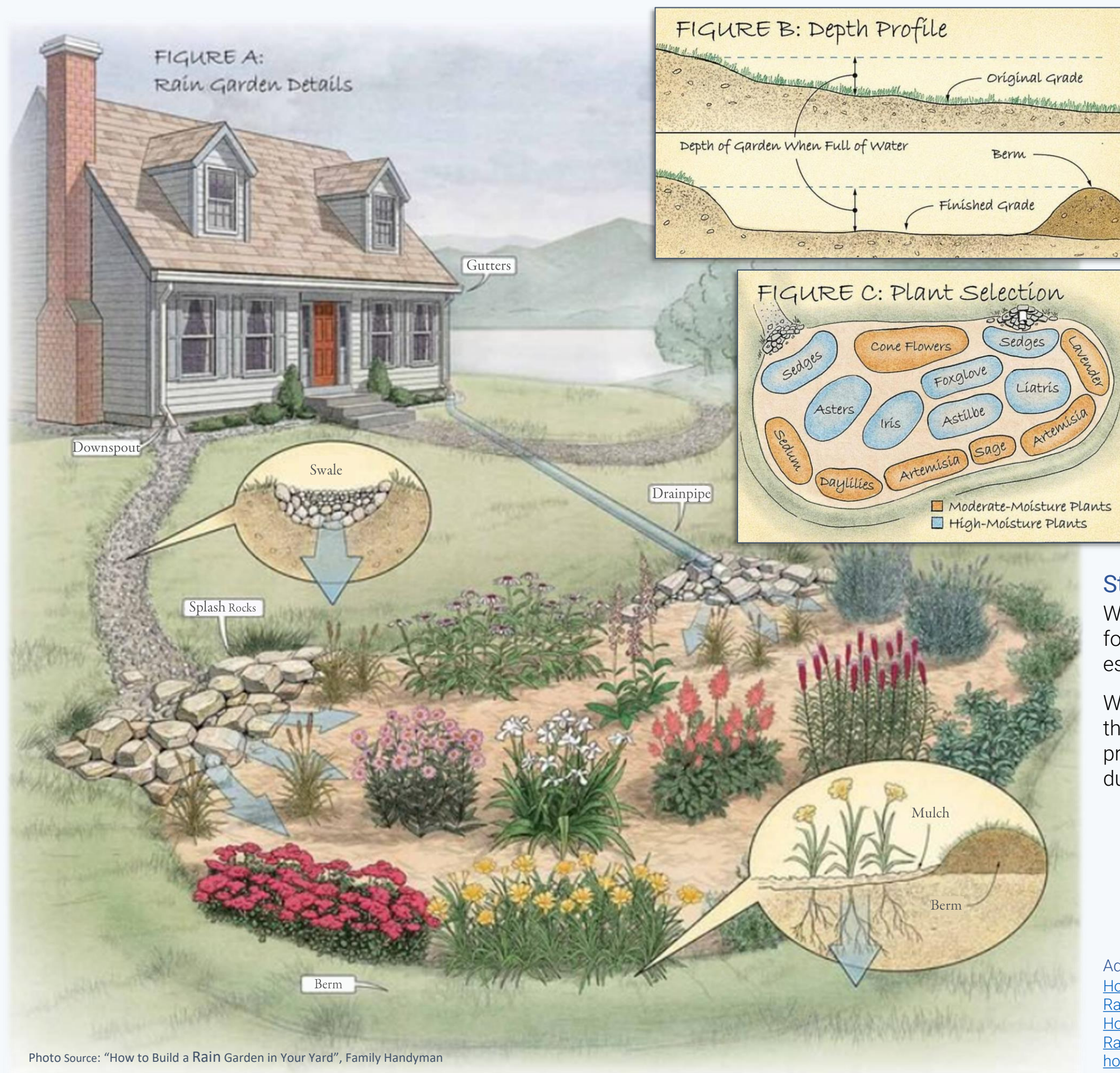


Photo Source: "How to Build a Rain Garden in Your Yard", Family Handyman

## Step 3: Get Planting

Use plants that are native to your area and will survive in varying conditions. Mix ornamental grasses with perennial wildflowers to establish a strong roots.

Plant high-moisture plants in the deepest part of your garden where the most rain will collect, and moderate-moisture plants around the edge of the garden where they will receive water during high storm events.

## Step 4: Maintenance

Water new plants every other day for the first two weeks. Once established, only weed as needed.

Wait until early spring to cut back the prior year's growth. This will provide cover and food for wildlife during the winter month.

Additional Resources:  
[How to Build a Rain Garden in Your Yard](#)  
[Rain Gardens – the Basics](#)  
[How to Build a Rain Garden](#)  
[Rain Gardens: A how-to manual for homeowners](#)