Rain Gardens

Today on Gardening in a Minute: rain gardens.

Rain gardens are an easy way to return water to our aquifer and reduce erosion and stormwater runoff.

Rain gardens are shallow areas that collect rain, using plants to filter the water before letting it soak into the ground.

Rain gardens work best when placed at the bottom of downspouts or naturally low spots in the landscape, usually where water tends to puddle. They’re especially useful for collecting runoff from paved surfaces.

Rain gardens can be any size or shape and can attract thirsty wildlife. You can make yours into a bog garden, by adding carnivorous plants.

The plants you choose will depend on how much sun your site gets. Make sure you select the plants that are not just water-tolerant, but also drought-tolerant for the times between rains.

For more information about rain gardens, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.