

The dotted line represents the ponding level of your garden. Rain Gardens are a shallow bowl shape with a depression typically <6" below the surrounding ground. Rain gardens are designed to help infiltrate water and unless a large storm has occurred, most water should soak into the ground within 48hrs.

Rain Gardens are usually covered with a thick layer of mulch.

This garden has a grassed swale that directs runoff from the roof gutter into the rain garden.

Zone 2

The Transition Zone

The sloped area leading to the bottom of the basin is the transition zone. This area is for plants that prefer well drained soil but are tolerant of periodic saturation.

Zone 1 The Wet Zone

The deepest point of the depression (full 6") is along the center of the basin in Zone 1. This is the area where water will regularly pool before it infiltrates into the ground. The plants in this zone must be tolerant of periodic inundation.

Depending on the drainage area and infiltration rate, rain gardens are usually dug to a 12-24" depth and then filled partway back up with a sandy bioretention mix.