

# Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are one of the most versatile and effective tools in a new approach to managing stormwater called low impact development (LID). Directing water from roofs, driveways and other hard surfaces into a rain garden can reduce storm water run off (and sometimes solve drainage issues) while also increasing the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge the local groundwater. This is also water than can contain pollutants that we wish to keep out of streams, wetlands and Puget Sound. Rich, healthy rain garden soil can filter out and degrade these pollutants. WSU Kitsap Extension is a member of the Clean Water Kitsap partnership which strives to educate the public and small business owners on the benefits of rain gardens and to encourage their wider use. WSU's Rain Garden Mentor volunteers are recruited from existing WSU Kitsap Master Gardener and Stream Stewards volunteers, and therefore have a wide background in native plants, water conservation tactics, water quality stewardship, and least toxic gardening methods.



## Residents in the Cities of Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island:

Obtain free technical assistance from Rain Garden Mentor volunteers.

**Colleen Miko**  
**Horticulture Educator**

Email: [cmiko@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:cmiko@co.kitsap.wa.us)

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<http://ext100.wsu.edu/kitsap/>

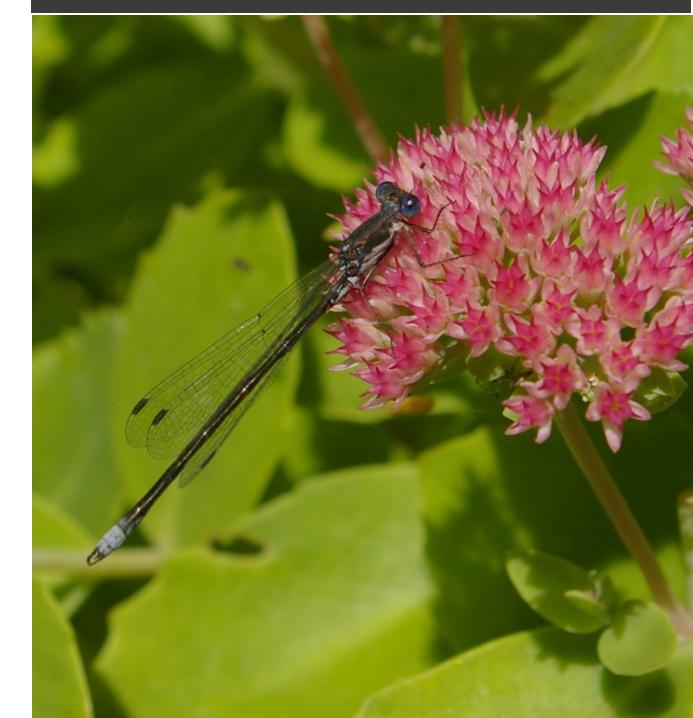
You can sign up online to receive a call to schedule a rain garden site visit at:



Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Colleen Miko at 345 6th Street, Suite 550, Bremerton, WA 98337 360-307-4378 [cmiko@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:cmiko@co.kitsap.wa.us) at least two weeks prior to the event.

# rain garden mentor program

WSU KITSAP COUNTY EXTENSION



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## Rain Garden Mentors

The Rain Garden Mentor program is made up of trained volunteers who help homeowners in the cities of Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island understand the benefits of rain gardens while assisting in technical details such as site selection, planning and plant suggestions. Volunteers meet with homeowners in these cities at their site and provide homeowners with valuable information to help in the decision-making and planning processes. Rain Garden Mentors explain how water can be routed from impervious surfaces like roof tops and driveways into a rain garden, and how the combination of proper soil amendments and careful plant selection can help improve the function and aesthetic appeal of a rain garden.



## Is a Rain Garden Right for You?

Our Rain Garden Mentors can help direct homeowners to other resources like city planning departments, underground utility location services, and sources of rain garden plants. Rain Garden Mentors are also available at various public events throughout the year to answer questions and provide informational handouts for all Kitsap County residents such as The Peninsula Home & Garden Show in March, The Kitsap Fair and Stampede in August and the Peninsula Home & Remodel Show in fall. At times Rain Garden Mentors also hold informational workshops for the public, often at local independent nursery centers. Such events appear on our WSU Kitsap Extension Website Calendar.