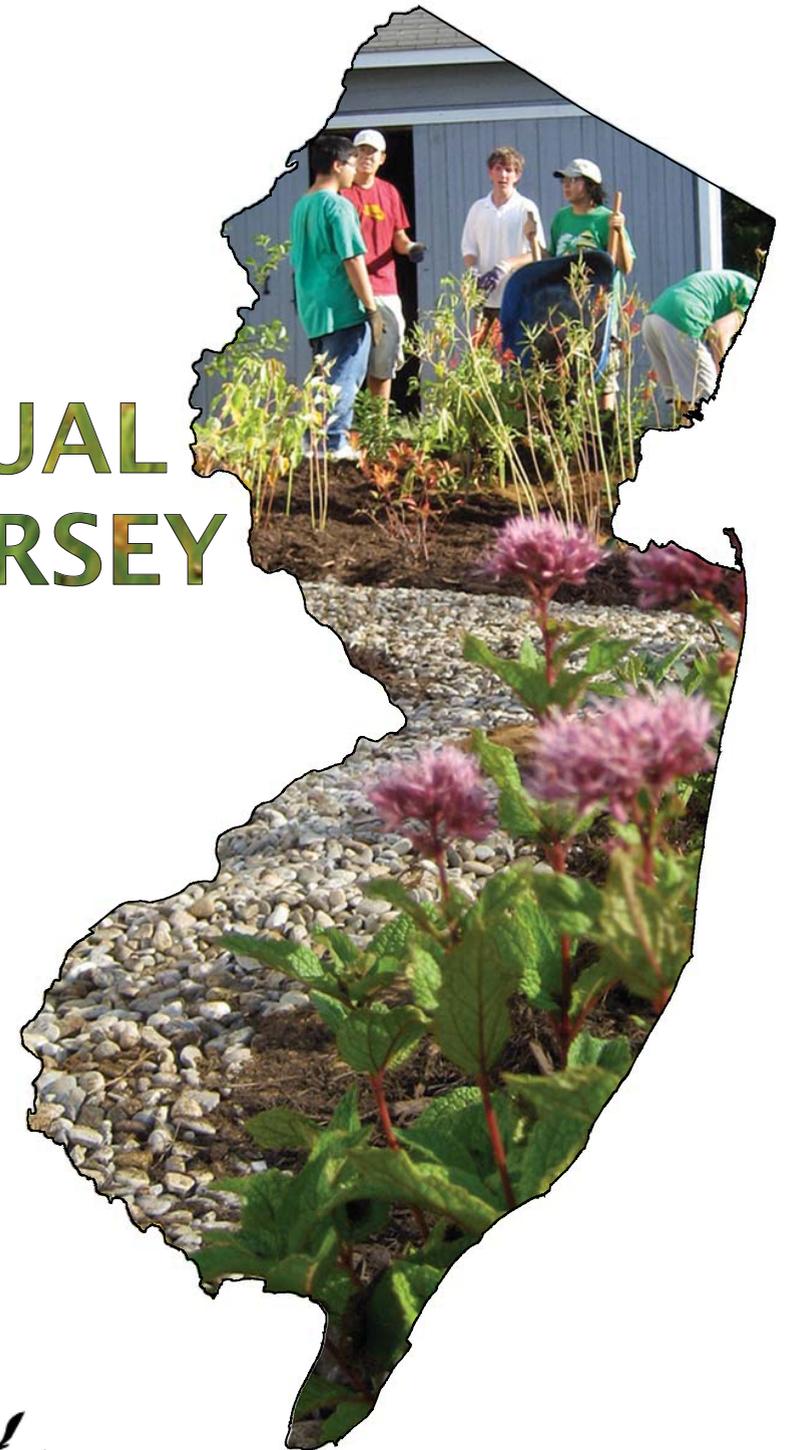


RAIN GARDEN MANUAL OF NEW JERSEY



RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



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PROJECT TEAM

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E.
Jeremiah D. Bergstrom, LLA, ASLA
Amy C. Boyajian
Caitrín S. Higgins, LEED AP

www.water.rutgers.edu



Native Plant Society of New Jersey

Kathleen V. Salisbury
William E. Young, MS, RLA, PWS

www.npsnj.org



Special thanks to all of our partners throughout New Jersey who have contributed photographs and images to help make this Manual a success for the Rain Garden State!

Front cover photo courtesy of Pat Eisemann

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

This material is based upon work supported in part by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Agreement No. 2008-51130-19504. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Welcome!

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey are excited to share this Rain Garden Manual with you. Rain gardens are an easy way for everyone in New Jersey to help protect our State's precious water resources and add to the health and diversity of our native habitats and landscapes. These shallow landscaped depressions are able to intercept, treat, and infiltrate stormwater at its source (your yard and home) helping to protect the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams and recharge our groundwater. Every drop of water kept out of our storm drains reduces flooding, mitigates pollution, and improves base flow in our waterways.

We look forward to introducing you to the beautiful native plants that can be used in rain gardens. These many trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses adapted to our State provide both aesthetics and function in your landscape.

This manual is intended to give you the step-by-step procedure you need to create a beautiful and sustainable rain garden landscape. Rain gardens are something everyone can do. This manual will walk you through the fears or reservations you might have and will give you encouragement, as well as the tools and answers you need to create and sustain a rain garden on your property. Remember, a rain garden is one of the best and easiest things you can do to protect and conserve New Jersey's natural resources.

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E.
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Water Resources Program

Kathleen V. Salisbury
Native Plant Society of New Jersey