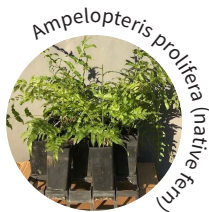


Recommended native plants:

Choose local native plants that can cope with both wet and dry conditions.

- **Basin areas:** sedges, grasses and other moisture-tolerant species. See example species below.
- **Edges:** hardy natives such as grevilleas and acacias.
- **Plant densely** to improve coverage and suppress weeds over time.
- **Water as needed** during the dry season while plants establish.
- **Avoid high-maintenance** species that require frequent watering or care.

Example species for Basin area



Ampelopteris prolifera (native fern)



Chrysopogon elongatus (tall tami grass)



Dianella revoluta (blueberry lily)



Fimbristylis dichotoma (common fringe-rush)



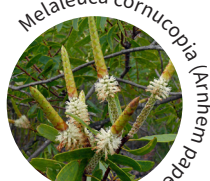
Chrysopogon oliganthus (finch grass)



Crinum pedunculatum (swamp lily)



Lomandra longifolia (mat rush)



Melaleuca cornucopia (Arnhem paperbark)



Melastoma malabathricum (native lantana)

Photo credits: Territory Native Plants, Gary Fox, M. Fagg and Ian Morris.

Maintenance:

- ✓ Remove weeds regularly so they don't take over
- ✓ Check the garden after rain — water should drain within 12–24 hours
- ✓ Add more sand to the soil if water remains muddy or pooled for days
- ✓ Replace mulch or plants as needed over time.



**Share your
rain garden
journey**

If you've created a rain garden, send us a photo and tell us a little about your project.

Follow our socials for native plant giveaway updates:



darwin.nt.gov.au



RAINGARDEN GUIDE



**A simple guide to creating
your own rain garden.**

Raingardens are simple, attractive garden features that capture stormwater from roofs and hard surfaces, allowing it to soak naturally into the ground.

Benefits include:

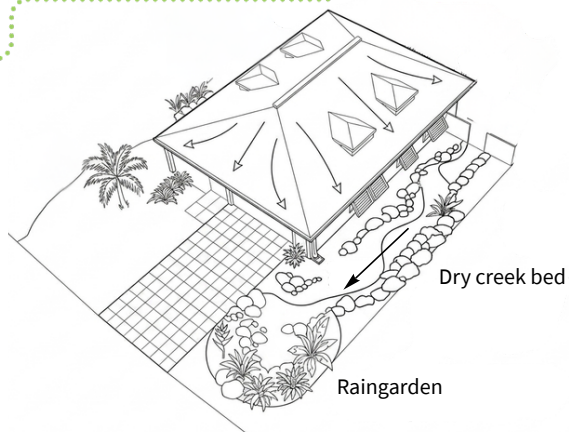
- Protecting Darwin Harbour
- Reducing flooding and erosion
- Supporting birds and pollinators
- Creating beautiful, water-wise landscapes.



Where to place your raingarden:

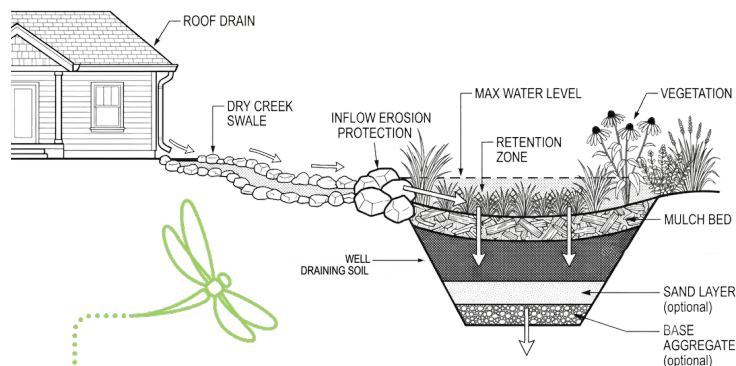
Look at how water moves during rain. Your raingarden should sit where water naturally flows or can be easily directed, such as near downpipes or along runoff paths. Select an area with well-draining soil or soil that can be improved for good infiltration.

Important: Keep raingardens away from building footings and ensure overflow drains away from structures to avoid prolonged moisture near your home.



Typical raingarden design:

- A **shallow basin** (100–200 mm deep) to capture and temporarily hold stormwater.
- **Well-draining soil** with optional sand or aggregate layer underneath to improve infiltration
- A **50 mm river stone or gravel** surface layer to help protect the soil surface and slow water flow
- A **150mm thick layer of woodchip mulch**
- **Plants adapted** to wet and dry conditions



How to build it in simple steps:

1. **Before you dig**
Contact Before You Dig Australia to locate underground services (water, gas etc).
2. **Mark out and excavate**
Dig a shallow basin 100-200 mm deep with gently sloping sides.
3. **Prepare the soil**
Fill with well-draining soil and, if needed, add sand or aggregate to improve drainage. Finish the surface 100–200 mm below surrounding ground level.
4. **Direct water into the raingarden**
Connect runoff using a downpipe, swale, dry creek bed or gentle slope.
5. **Create an overflow**
Ensure water can safely flow away in heavy rain either through an overflow pipe or spillway.
6. **Plant**
Plant suitable raingarden species within basin and feature plants around edges.
7. **Mulch**
Apply at least 150mm thick to protect soil and retain moisture.

DO:

- ✓ place ~2-3 m away from house
- ✓ direct overflow from the raingarden away from building
- ✓ use a natural slope where possible

DON'T:

- ✗ place in areas that stay wet for days
- ✗ block natural drainage paths
- ✗ direct water toward neighbours

DO:

- ✓ create a gentle slope from the edges to the centre
- ✓ ensure water drains within ~24 hours
- ✓ use mulch to protect soil and retain moisture

DON'T:

- ✗ make it too deep (can hold water too long)
- ✗ compact the soil
- ✗ leave bare soil exposed

How big should your rain garden be?

Size your rain garden so its at least 2% of the roof and hard surface area draining into it. For example:

200 m² catchment needs a 4 m² raingarden

Lomandra longifolia (Credit M. Fagg)

