



# Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape

By Nigel Dunnett, Andy Clayden

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Rain gardens encompass all possible elements that can be used to capture, channel, divert and make the most of the rain and snow that fall on a property. Using the innovative and attractive approaches described here, it is possible to enhance outdoor spaces and minimize the damaging effects of drought, stormwater runoff, and other environmental challenges. Nigel Dunnett & Andy Clayden have created a comprehensive guide to water management techniques for the garden and built environment. Filled with practical, manageable solutions for small and large-scale implementations and utilizing authoritative research with state-of-the-art case studies from all over the world, Rain Gardens is the first book on sustainable water management schemes suitable for students and professionals.

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## **Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape** By Nigel Dunnett, Andy Clayden Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #389950 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Timber Press, Incorporated
- Published on: 2007-04-01
- Format: Illustrated
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.52" h x .75" w x 8.00" l, 1.66 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 188 pages

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The demand for water is growing exponentially as supplies dwindle, so it becomes ever more critical for home gardeners, professional landscapers, construction engineers, and city planners to consider rainfall and snowfall management. Structures as small as a garden shed and hard surfaces as massive as an arena parking lot each have an environmental effect through the loss of water as uncontained runoff. Rain gardening emphasizes the capture and reuse of water within residential and commercial landscapes by using such techniques as bioretention ponds, storm-water chains, green roofs, and permeable paving. In this unique and essential resource, Dunnett and Clayden expertly and comprehensively explain the various methods of creating rain-gardening systems in clear, precise, and enthusiastic language; augment their proposals with simple line drawings and color photographs; provide a concise directory of suitable plants; and draw on inspiring case histories of successful rain-garden projects throughout the U.S and Europe. *Carol Haggas*  
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### Review

“Here you can learn how to capture rain and snowmelt runoff, how to disconnect your downspouts, create a green roof, bioretention ponds, storm-water chains and permeable paving.”

### About the Author

Andy Clayden is a landscape architect, garden designer, and a lecturer at the University of Sheffield, England.

Nigel Dunnett is a Reader in Urban Horticulture in the landscape department at the University of Sheffield, where he has developed innovative research programs on naturalistic and ecologically informed planting for gardens and public landscapes. He is director of The Green Roof Centre, Sheffield, and acts widely as a consultant on green roof design and planting, and sustainable garden and landscape design in general.

He writes regularly for landscape and garden publications, including *Gardens Illustrated* and *The Garden*. With Noël Kingsbury he wrote *Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*; with Andy Clayden, *Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape*.

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