

# Sizing a Rain Garden Worksheet

To size a rain garden, you will need to measure your drainage area, determine the percent slope of your lawn, and identify your soil type. This worksheet will walk you through these steps.

**1. Drainage Area:** Measure your drainage area.

- a. Roof area: \_\_\_\_\_ feet X \_\_\_\_\_ feet = \_\_\_\_\_ square feet
- b. Lawn area: \_\_\_\_\_ feet X \_\_\_\_\_ feet = \_\_\_\_\_ square feet
- c. Paved surfaces: \_\_\_\_\_ feet X \_\_\_\_\_ feet = \_\_\_\_\_ square feet
- d. Total drainage area:

**2. Rain Garden Depth:** Find the slope of your rain garden site to determine how deep to dig your garden.

- a. Less than a 4% slope = 3 – 5 inch deep rain garden
- b. 5 – 7% slope = 6 – 7 inch deep rain garden
- c. 8 – 12% slope = 8 inch deep rain garden

\_\_\_\_\_ inches deep

**3. Soil Type:** Determine your soil type.

- a. Soil type (please circle)                      sand                      silt (loam)                      clay

**4. Soil Factor:** Use the appropriate table below to find your soil factor. The soil factor is derived from soil type and rain garden depth.

a. Soil factor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Table #1:** Rain gardens up to 30 feet from a downspout.

	3-5 inches deep	6-7 inches deep	8 inches deep
Sandy soil	0.19	0.15	0.08
Silt/loam soil	0.34	0.25	0.16
Clay soil	0.43	0.32	0.20

**Table #2:**

Rain Gardens more than 30 ft. from downspout

Sandy soil	.03
Silt/loam soil	.06
Clay soil	.20

**5. Rain Garden Size:** Multiply total drainage area (#1) by the soil factor (#4).

\_\_\_\_\_ (sq. ft.) total drainage area X \_\_\_\_\_ soil factor = \_\_\_\_\_ (sq. ft.) rain garden