



# Why build a rain garden

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To save a precious resource -  
water





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## Where does it all go?

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- - Not back to the earth where it's needed
- - To the ocean





# What can we do?

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- Build a capture device
  - Rain barrel
  - Rain garden





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## Benefits of a rain barrel

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- Good water for plants
- “Free” water
- Don’t need to have a fancy barrel – any closed barrel will work.



# Dos and Don'ts for rain barrels

- Use a diverter – if possible
- If top is open - treat standing water for mosquitos
- Annual cleaning is best
- Elevate it to access the water “spigot”
- Don't drink – not potable as it's open to everyone!

# How about a rain garden?







**How to build a rain garden**



# Elements of a rain garden

- Select best place for the garden
- Create a place to retain rainwater
- How will rainwater reach your garden
- Choosing plants for the garden

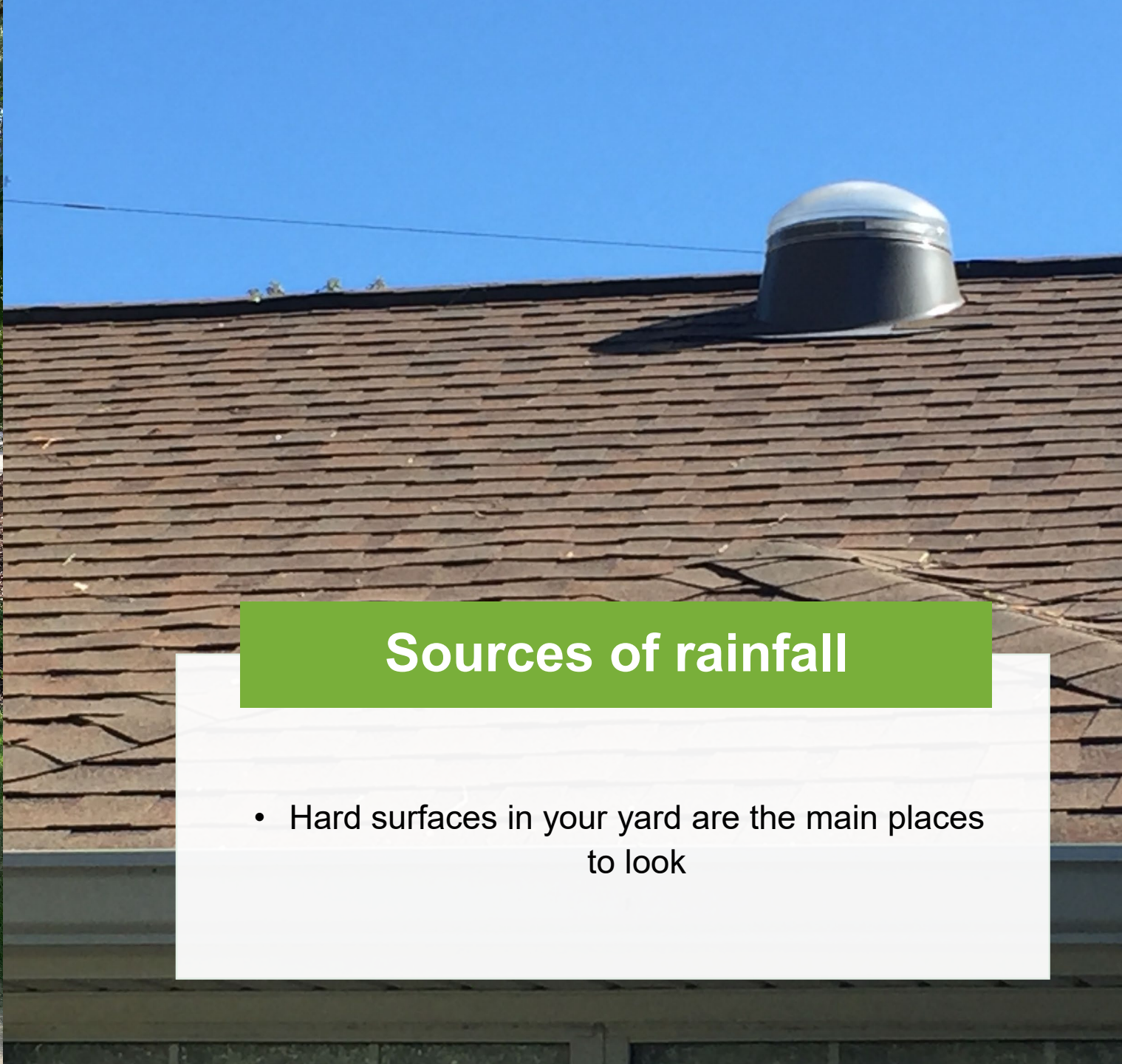




# Where to install your rain garden

- Go out in the rain first to see where rainwater is going
- If you have rain gutters, it's much easier
- Without rain gutters, there may be challenges





## Sources of rainfall

- Hard surfaces in your yard are the main places to look





Clemson has extensive guidance on designing a rain garden – just go to:

[https://www.clemson.edu/extension/raingarden/virtual\\_rain\\_garden.html](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/raingarden/virtual_rain_garden.html) for “how to” videos

or look at:

[https://www.clemson.edu/extension/raingarden/clemson\\_rain\\_garden\\_manual\\_2016.pdf](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/raingarden/clemson_rain_garden_manual_2016.pdf)





## Video Listing

1. [Introduction to the Virtual Rain Garden](#)
2. [Siting: Location of Your Rain Garden](#)
3. [Siting II: Getting Water to Your Rain Garden](#)
4. [Getting to Know Your Soil: Percolation Test](#)
5. [Getting to Know Your Soil II: Ribbon Test](#)
6. [Getting to Know Your Soil III: Jar Test](#)
7. [Sizing: Measuring Your Rainwater Catchment Area](#)
8. [Sizing II: Sizing Your Rain Garden](#)
9. [Shaping: Creating A Functioning Rain Garden with Shape](#)
10. [Shaping II: Creating Flow](#)
11. [Amending Soils: Soil Mix for Rain Gardens](#)
12. [Plants: Selecting Plants for My Rain Garden](#)
13. [Design 101: Creating an Attractive Landscape Feature](#)
14. [Mulch Matters: Selecting Mulch for Rain Gardens](#)
15. [Water Wise: Rainwater Harvesting and Rain Gardens](#)
16. [Maintenance: Maintaining a Functional and Beautiful Rain Garden](#)
17. [Carolina Rain Garden Initiative: Showcasing My Rain Garden](#)





**Now to the best  
part - plants to  
grow in the rain  
garden**

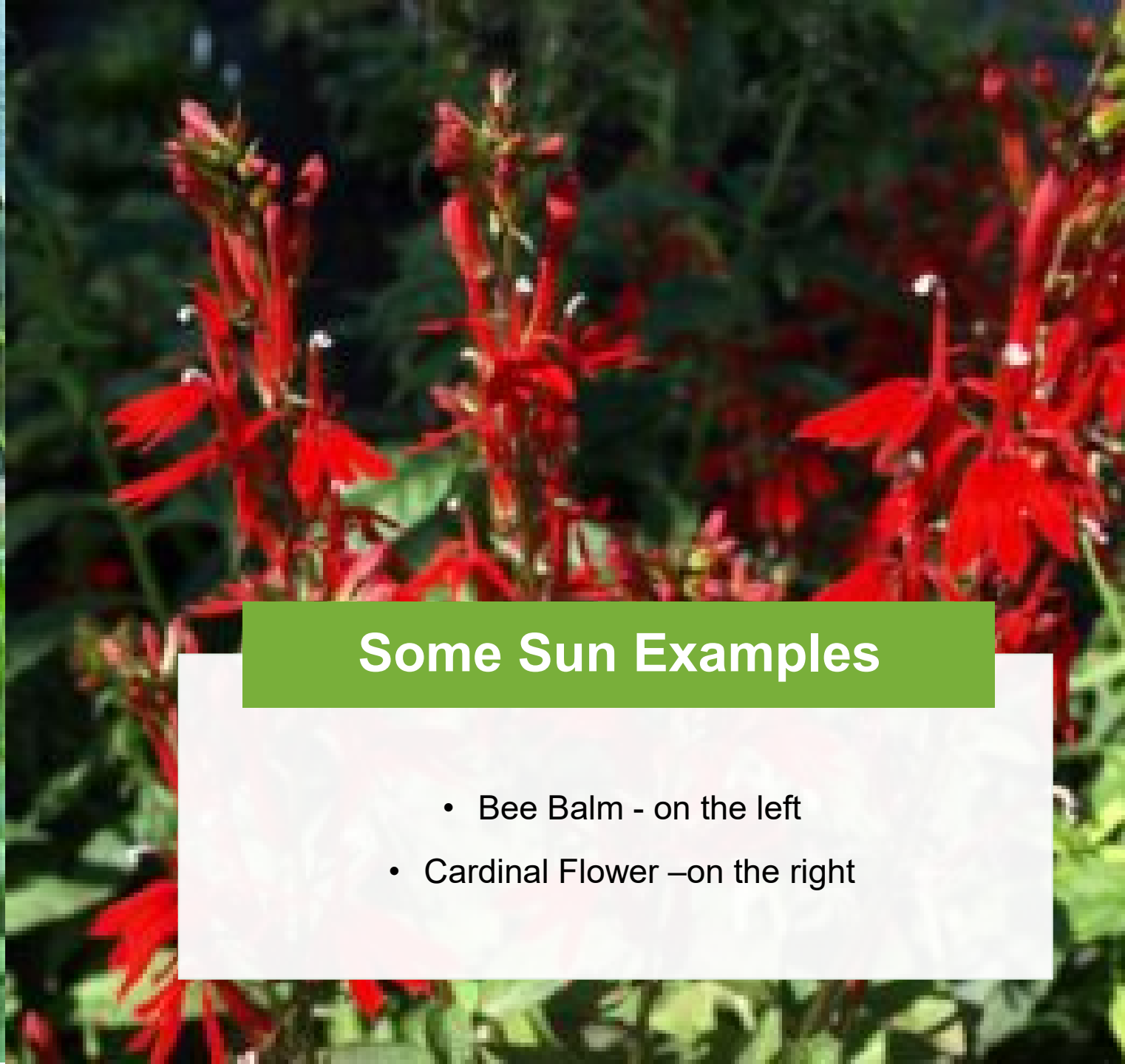




# Some perennial choices

- Full Sun choices:
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobellia cardinalis*)
- Stoke's Aster (*Stokesia laevis*)
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
- Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)





## Some Sun Examples

- Bee Balm - on the left
- Cardinal Flower –on the right



## **More Perennials suitable for a rain garden**

- Stokes aster – on the left
- Black-eyed Susan – on the right



## Some tall choices loved by pollinators

- Joe-Pye Weed –on the left
- Swamp Milkweed – on the right







# Other options – grasses and ferns

- Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capallaris*)
- River oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)
- Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

To see more ideas, go to HGIC “Rain Gardening Ideas” – it has a more complete list of choices



## Some grasses to try

- Little bluestem and Muhly grass





## A few more grasses

- River oats on the left and switch grass on the right