

# Discover the Rain Garden

A Rain Garden is a shallow depression designed to collect rainwater from a roof or other surface. The rain garden will capture this water for a short period of time, allowing the water to soak slowly into the landscape, rather than flow into overtaxed storm drains or creeks. Rain gardens act as a natural filter, removing oil, grease, and toxic materials that may mix with rainwater on roofs or other surfaces.

## Look for:

- The Baker Cypress (*Cupressus Bakeri*) is the large conifer to the left of the garden. This is the rarest tree in North America and its native range is only very Southern Oregon to very Northern California. Smell its wonderful needles!
- A bear visits the garden frequently. You can identify what the bear has been eating from the feces - it had been eating a lot of cherries.
- Checkout that the most water loving plants are located at the bottom of the depression, so that when it fills with water in the winter rains, those plants don't mind the soaking. The further up the depression you go, the more drought tolerant the plants need to be in order to handle the minimal water they receive in their location.

## Garden Tips:

- The size of a rain garden should be about 10 percent of the surface area from which the water flows.
- The depth depends on the drainage rate of the soil and should be between 6" and 24".
- Ask for a handout about how to calculate the size of the rain garden that would handle the runoff from your home, barn, or shop.

