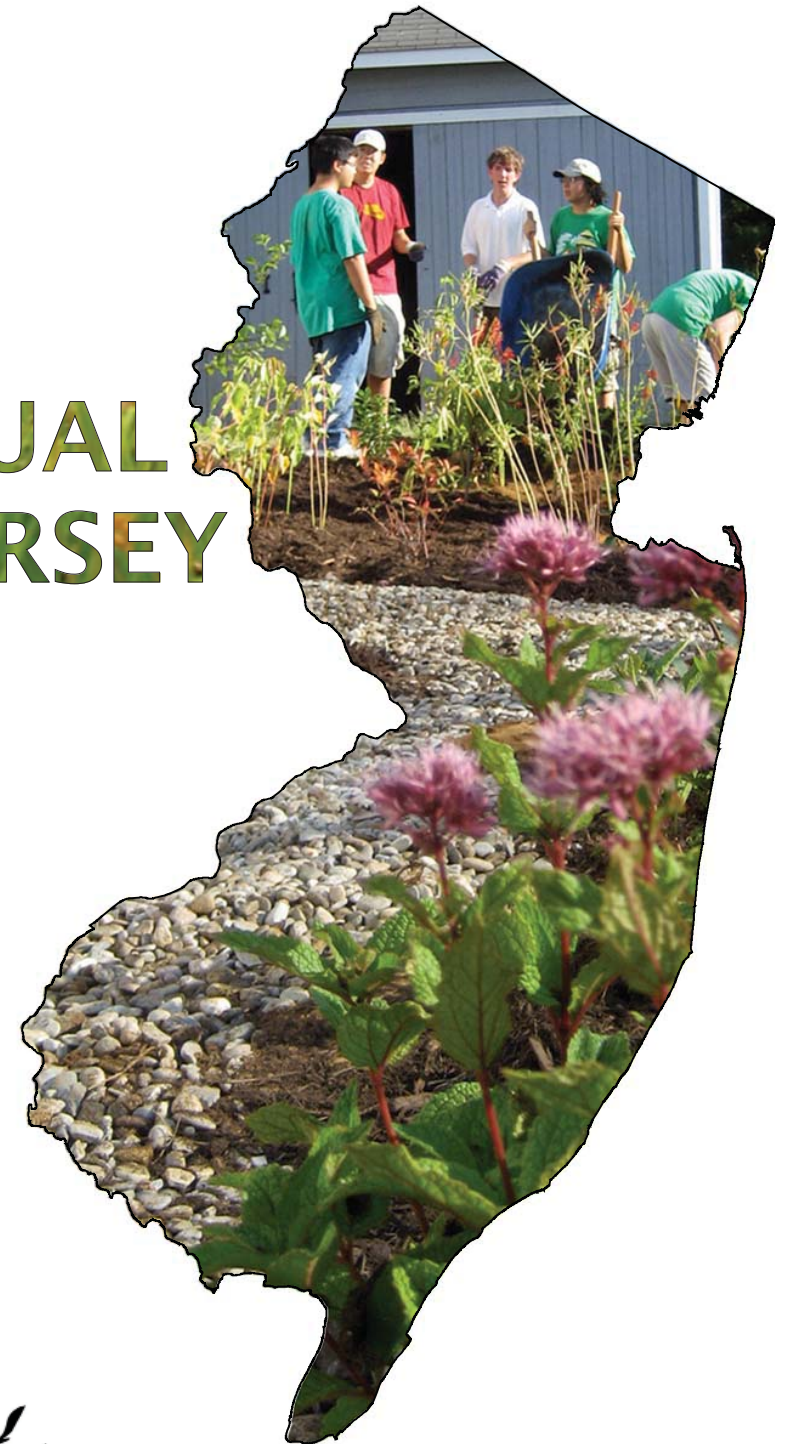


# RAIN GARDEN MANUAL OF NEW JERSEY



**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



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Special thanks to all of our partners throughout New Jersey who have contributed photographs and images to help make this Manual a success for the Rain Garden State!

Front cover photo courtesy of Pat Eisemann

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## Welcome!

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Native Plant Society of New Jersey are excited to share this Rain Garden Manual with you. Rain gardens are an easy way for everyone in New Jersey to help protect our State's precious water resources and add to the health and diversity of our native habitats and landscapes. These shallow landscaped depressions are able to intercept, treat, and infiltrate stormwater at its source (your yard and home) helping to protect the quality of our lakes, rivers, and streams and recharge our groundwater. Every drop of water kept out of our storm drains reduces flooding, mitigates pollution, and improves base flow in our waterways.

We look forward to introducing you to the beautiful native plants that can be used in rain gardens. These many trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses adapted to our State provide both aesthetics and function in your landscape.

This manual is intended to give you the step-by-step procedure you need to create a beautiful and sustainable rain garden landscape. Rain gardens are something everyone can do. This manual will walk you through the fears or reservations you might have and will give you encouragement, as well as the tools and answers you need to create and sustain a rain garden on your property. Remember, a rain garden is one of the best and easiest things you can do to protect and conserve New Jersey's natural resources.

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