

Lake County Master Rain Gardener Certification

Syllabus (Online)



Course Description

Rain gardens work with nature to collect and filter rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces like rooftops and driveways. Impervious surfaces lead to increases in surface runoff and often result in increased flooding and stream bank erosion. As water travels over impervious surfaces it also has the potential to pick up pollutants. Polluted stormwater runoff enters our rivers and lakes and is one of the leading threats to water quality in the U.S.

This Master Rain Gardener Program will teach you how to manage rain water in your own yard. Rain gardens naturally manage stormwater by infiltrating precipitation and allowing it to soak into the ground rather than sending it directly to storm sewers and nearby streams untreated. Experienced instructors will provide customized feedback which will enable you to design and install a rain garden. Topics will include site assessment, soil analysis, design, construction, plant selection, mulching, and maintenance.

Course Format

Five (5) online weekly classes

Course Requirements

All participants will be required to complete five weeks of course content, hands-on assignments, and weekly quizzes. To earn a residential certification, participants must install their own rain garden or adopt a public rain garden. To earn a professional certification, participants must attend the Field Day and pass the final exam.

Course Schedule

Class	Topics
Class 1 Opens: August 26 Due: September 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Rain Gardens• Stormwater Management• Introduction to Your Watershed• Elements of a Rain Garden• Example of a Rain Garden
Class 2 Opens: September 2 Due: September 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Siting a Rain Garden• Percolation Test• Drainage Area Analysis• Sizing a Rain Garden• Rain Garden Shape

<p>Class 3 Opens: September 9 Due: September 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Assessment • Digging • Drawing a Plan on Paper • Maintenance
<p>Class 4 Opens: September 16 – Due: September 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Basics • Selecting Plants • Pollinators • Planting • Plant Acquisition Guidance
<p>Class 5 Opens: September 23 – Due: September 29</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain Garden Presentations • Customized Feedback • Exam (<i>Professional Certification Requirement Only</i>)
<p>Saturday, October 5 9:00am – 3:00pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Day – Build a Public Rain Garden from Start to Finish (<i>Professional Certification Requirement Only</i>)

Evaluation

Track	Requirements
<p>All participants <i>(Residential and Professional Tracks)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online class participation • Hands-on homework assignments • Weekly quizzes
<p>Residential Track Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification is earned once participants install their own rain garden or adopt a public rain garden for at least one year
<p>Professional Track Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass final exam with an 80% or higher • Participate in the Field Day at the end of the course



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