

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



NOVEMBER 2023 ~ HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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Rain Garden Brings Hands-on Experience and Stormwater Management to Salem County Career and Technical High School

In November, agriculture and environmental students from the Salem County Career and Technical High School played a key role in the construction and planting of their school's new rain garden. Students, staff, and project partners joined the landscape contractor, Davis Lawns & Landscapes, in completing the project by placing and spreading materials, like soil, mulch, and stone, in the rain garden. The next day, the students planted over 600 native perennials and shrubs into the rain garden with the help of Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program staff.

The 1,000 sq. ft. rain garden in Pilesgrove Township, designed by the RCE Water Resources Program, manages 71,117 gallons of stormwater runoff per year and treats an area of impervious rooftop of 4,225 square feet. Rain gardens are an example of green stormwater infrastructure and are designed to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and improve biodiversity through the use of native plants and creation of wildlife and pollinator species habitat. This green infrastructure project was funded and installed as an initiative of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.



Project site, Salem County Career and Technical High School, Pilesgrove Township



Rain garden construction, November 2023



*Rain garden installation and planting, November 2023
[Photo credit: Allison Nevulis]*

Woodbridge Township Intersection's Blooming Transformation

Thanks to our continued partnership with Woodbridge Township, a beautiful rain garden was implemented in a vacant lot off of Dow Avenue and Lincoln Highway in Woodbridge, NJ. This rain garden and an upland pollinator meadow were installed to create wildlife habitat and to manage stormwater runoff. A rain garden, 1,815 square feet, was installed off the northeastern corner of the intersection. This rain garden manages runoff from the roadway which has a drainage area of 4,165 square feet and manages 98,802 gallons of runoff annually. The meadow area, which is 7,000 square feet, was seeded with a native seed mix. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program provided the design and construction oversight, and the Woodbridge Department of Public Works (DPW) constructed the rain garden and assisted with the planting. The RCE Water Resources Program and Woodbridge DPW planted over 304 native perennials and shrubs, beautifying the area and creating a new habitat for pollinator species.



Upland pollinator garden under construction, Woodbridge Township, October 2023



Newly planted rain garden, Woodbridge Township, October 2023



The New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP) is hosting its State of the Estuary Conference!

Join HEP on Nov. 28-30th to learn about how our estuary is changing.

Conference highlights include:

- A day of in-person conversations, poster presentations, and networking at the Central Railroad of NJ Terminal at Liberty State Park
- A hands-on workshop on mitigating unconscious bias in the workplace
- Presentations of the best available data for 30+ indicators that tell us about our estuarine health and current environmental trends.
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This is a hybrid conference that features both online and in-person options. Learn more and register at <https://www.hudsonriver.org/article/2023-hep-annual-conference>

Become a leader, become a Green Infrastructure Champion! Registration is OPEN!



The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12NOON starting January 12, 2024!

All sessions for the 2024 training program will be offered via an online format.

Generous support from our founders is allowing us to offer the 2024 training for **FREE**.

Here is what we can offer as part of the program:

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other certified Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support

- Assistance with grant writing

2024 Training Program Class Schedule:

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 12)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 26)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 9)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 23)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 8)
6. Green infrastructure projects for schools (March 22)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 5)
8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 19)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 3)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resilience (May 17)

Registration is required and is OPEN!

Register [HERE](#) or go to water.rutgers.edu for more information.

Attendance at a minimum of five (5) classes is needed for certification .

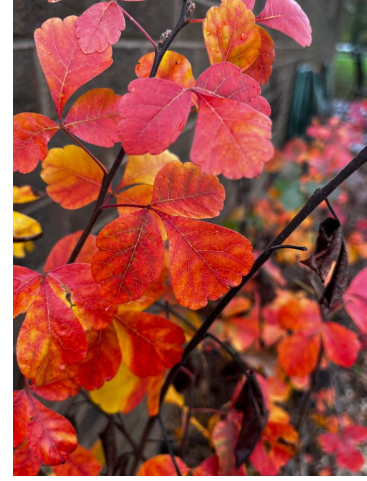
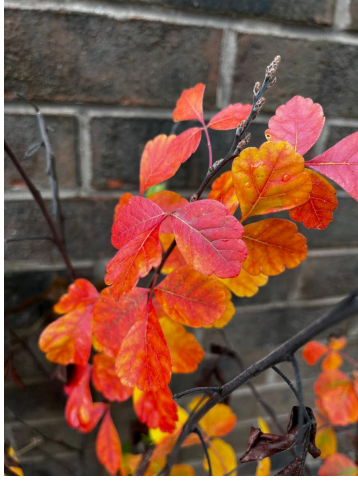
This program is partially funded by the **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station** , **Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation** , **William Penn Foundation** , and **New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium** and is a collaboration of the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program** and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of **Jersey Water Works** .

Rain Garden Native Plant Spotlight ~ Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*)

The large form and spreading habit of this deciduous shrub can be used to form a hedge or act as a focal point in the garden, while the common cultivar 'Grolow' makes a dense groundcover. Its average to dry moisture preferences indicates that it would be an unwise choice for a wet site, but Fragrant Sumac works best in the sandy soil conditions often found in stormwater planters and bioswales. The vibrant fall foliage of Fragrant Sumac also pairs well with warm season grasses and evergreen shrubs and is not to be missed!

For more information:

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/rhus-aromatica/>



Rhus aromatica, Fragrant Sumac
[Photo credit: Chris Perez]

Tuesday, November 28th,
is
National Day of Giving!

GIVING
TUESDAY



Every act of generosity counts!
Join the movement today, and
take part in
#GIVINGTUESDAY.



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