

Leading edge outdoor rain garden arrives in Chelsea

The Pond Clinic in Chelsea is gearing up for its busiest time of year, when people take a look at their dreary backyards following the spring thaw and start thinking about ponds as a creative way to spruce them up.

Nicholas Bott, owner of the Pond Clinic, says he's excited to introduce his customers to a new innovation for any outdoor pond lover - the rain garden.

"This is leading, leading edge," said Bott. "The very first one that's working in Canada is installed in Chelsea and it's working brilliantly."

Now Bott is ready to teach others how to install a rain garden themselves. Or they can come in and have the Pond Clinic design and install it for them.

Instead of contributing to runoff into lakes, rivers and streams, a rain garden allows you to collect the water coming off the roof and put it to use in a wetland garden or to irrigate existing lawns and flowerbeds, said Bott.

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-Nicholas Bott

Basically, it consists of a basin lined with rubber that collects rainwater from the roof of your home. The water is stored underground, where it is used to wet the bases of plant roots above, creating a wetland environment right in your backyard, said Bott.

In times of drought during the hot summer months, the water stored underground can be hooked up to a tap and used for watering the rest of your gar-



Photo courtesy The Pond Clinic

Rain gardens, like the one pictured above, are one of the latest trends in outdoor ponds, and are now available at the Pond Clinic. The first rain garden to arrive in Canada is installed in Chelsea.

den, he said.

"It's perfect for the environment," said Bott.

Rain gardens cost anywhere from several hundred dollars for a do-it-yourself installation up to \$10,000 for a large, installed pond providing enough water for an entire household.

Another exciting innovation in water ponds is that people can now install backyard ponds

that are large enough and clean enough for swimming, said Bott. By creating the perfect environment, nature will clean the water for you, making the use of chlorine unnecessary, he said.

"You can basically have a small private lake in your backyard," he said. "It could be like glass - crystal clear."

The Pond Clinic can be reached at 613-225-7663.

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