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**Rain Garden Training for Professional Landscapers**

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Abstract:

As part of the Stormwater Management in Your Backyard program, a collaborative initiative between Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Sea Grant Extension Program, and the USDA CSREES Regional Water Coordination Program for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, a rain garden installation certificate program for professional landscapers was developed and continues to be implemented for the duration of the grant period (2007-2010). The rain garden training for professional landscapers provides the skills needed to install and maintain a rain garden and assists them with marketing their new service offering. The rain garden training includes in-class lectures and a hands-on demonstration, which results in the installation of demonstration rain gardens. In addition to the installation of demonstration rain gardens, the professional landscapers receive a certificate of completion for the rain garden training, educational materials, and a Rutgers Soil Test Kit. The training sessions are conducted in North and South Jersey at Union and Gloucester counties. As a result of this training, a brochure of the certified rain garden professional landscapers in New Jersey has been developed and distributed at public education programs. A website has also been developed to provide stakeholders with an overview of the rain garden installation certificate program for professional landscapers as well as provide them with a listing of the rain garden professional landscapers who completed the training program.

Impact Statement:

The results of the pre/post tests distributed at the training for the first year of training indicate that landscape professional participants have improved their knowledge and will use the information from the training to promote rain gardens with their customers, install rain gardens for their customers, and work with local municipalities to install rain gardens.

Category: Other Water Resource Topics  
Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation