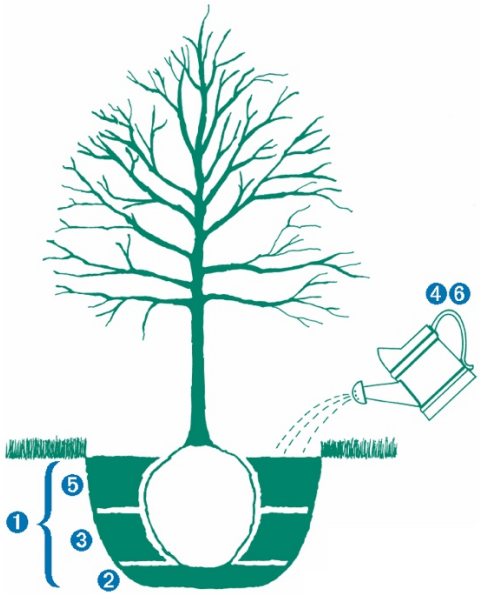
How to Use Leafgro®



Planting Trees and Shrubs
Leafgro® should be used as a soil conditioner and enhancer when planting trees and shrubs. To do so, dig the hole twice the size and only as deep as the root ball of the plant. Mix well, equal parts Leafgro® and existing soil. Place two inches of mix in the bottom of the hole and place the root ball in the hole. Fill the area around the root ball half-way with the mix and tamp firmly. Water thoroughly. Fill the remaining mix to ground level tamping firmly again. The top of the root ball should be slightly above ground level to allow for settlement. Water all plants after planting.

Lawn Establishment or Reseeding
Spread Leafgro® evenly and mix or rototill to a depth of four to six inches. Rake the area smooth, and seed or sod on top of prepared soil. Roll if possible and water. When reseeding your lawn, apply the lawn seed, then spread Leafgro® evenly on top, then roll and water.

Bed Preparation
When preparing areas for flowers, perennials, ground covers and vegetable gardens, use eight bags per 100 square feet of garden area. Mix to a depth of four to six inches. Leafgro® should be used when creating new beds or rejuvenating old ones.

Potting Soil
Leafgro® makes an excellent outdoor potting soil when you combine equal parts Leafgro®, vermiculite and perlite. Leafgro® is available in 1.5 cubic foot bags and bulk by the cubic yard. Visit our retail page or contact us for a Leafgro® distributor in your area. (Underlined items, add links)

Leafgro® for Green Lawns and Green Roofs

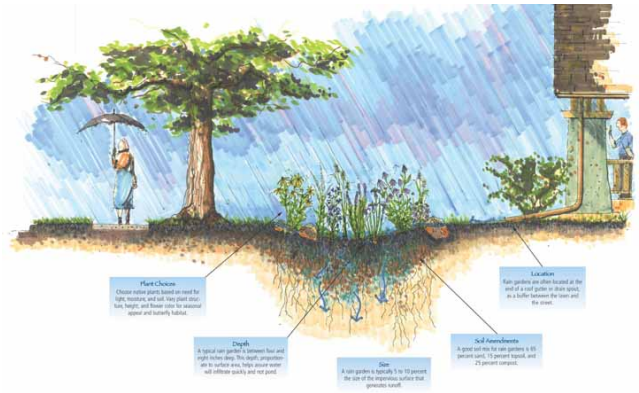
Leafgro® will green-up your lawn by adding organic matter to the soil.

Green Roof Soil Mixes – Green roofs have become quite popular lately, particularly on office buildings. They save on the amount of energy the building uses, aid in helping to clean the air of pollution, help prevent run-off, last longer structurally and are more attractive.

A green roof will have a noticeable impact on the heat gain and loss of a building, as well as the humidity, air quality and reflected heat in the surrounding neighborhood. Water is stored by the substrate and then taken up by the plants from where it is returned to the atmosphere through transpiration and evaporation. Green roofs not only retain the rainwater, but also moderate the temperature of the water and act as natural filters for any of the water that happens to run off.

Green roofs reduce the amount of storm water runoff and also delay the time at which runoffs occurs, resulting in decreased stress on sewer systems at peak flow periods. Leafgro® is a natural compost used as part of a growing medium for green roof projects. One of our customers has won national awards using a mixture of Leafgro®, styrofoam and fine pines in his green roof soil mix.

Leafgro® for Rain Gardens



Leafgro® should be used to increase drainage, the moisture holding capacity and enhance the filtering properties of the soil when establishing a Rain Garden.

What is a Rain Garden?
A "rain garden" is a man-made depression in the ground that is used as a landscape tool to improve water quality. The rain garden forms a "bioretention area" by collecting water runoff and storing it, permitting it be filtered and slowly absorbed by the soil. The bioretention concept is based on the hydrologic function of forest habitat, in which the forest produces a spongy litter layer that soaks up water and allows it to slowly penetrate the soil layer. The rain garden should be strategically located to intercept water runoff.

Benefits of Rain Gardens
Rain gardens help filter nutrients from rain water running off your driveway or roof, improving water quality. They first flush of rain water is ponded in the depression of the rain garden, and contains the highest concentration of materials washed off impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and parking lots. The water loving plants in the rain garden also take up and use the rain water, reducing problems with excess water or ponding in your yard.

Why is that important? As storm water runs over lawns, streets and other man-made surfaces, it picks up pollutants – phosphorous and nitrogen from fertilizers, bacteria from pet waste and road salt, to name a few – carries them into local streams and lakes.

When homeowners help water to flow into a rain garden, the plants help absorb that runoff water to keep pollution from washing into local watersheds and to help prevent flash flooding.

Compare with a normal lawn, rain gardens allow about 30 percent more water to soak into the ground.

Building a Rain Garden

Find a location: The best sites are those with partial to full sun. Rain gardens should be at least 10 feet away from a home to prevent leaks into your basement. Water can be directed to gardens that sit far away from a home with plastic piping. But make sure you don't build your garden over a septic system or pipes. Before you break out a shovel, have utility workers come to your home and mark the location of underground lines.

Choose your plants: Use a variety of heights, shapes and textures, and pick plants that bloom at different times during the season. Try incorporating native species.

Dig: A rain garden is usually 4 to 8 inches deep with the cross-section of a pie tine: the bottom should be flat, with angled sides. Residential rain gardens usually span between 100 and 300 square feet and are built in a kidney or tear-drop shape. Use dug-up soil to create a berm, or low wall, around three sides of the garden to hold in water during the storms. Add compost to increase drainage.

Plant, water and mulch: Your rain garden will need water, especially when it's first installed and during dry spells. Like any garden, gardens also need to be weeded, mulched and, eventually, thinned.