

Welcome to the Drought Resistant Gardens Lunch & Learn...

- **Open the chat window on the right of your screen**
- **Icebreaker Qs: What do you love about being outside and/or what you are having for lunch?**

Let's get started

Minimize potable water use and design vibrant, inviting spaces with drought resistant gardening practices.



Agenda

- Soil health 101
- Mulch facts
- Perennials & raingardens
- Rainbarrels
- Q&A
- Learn more

Ingredients of a Drought Resistant Garden:

1. Healthy soil
2. Deep roots
3. Passive rainwater
harvest



Soil supports a web of life.

Fungi, bacteria, nematodes, worms, insects, and burrowing animals produce soil nutrients with every interaction.



Soil has space.

Water and air are exchanged constantly through soil "voids".



“Don’t tread on me!” - Your Soil

Heavy foot traffic on lawns and gardens, especially after rain, causes “compaction”.

Heavy rains can also compact your garden.

Marked pathways help!



Small holes invite diversity and exchange.

Once or twice a year, have
your lawn aerated.

Use a shovel or pitchfork to
gently aerate your garden
before planting.



Keep it lively.

Add organic matter at many points in the growing season to establish a healthy landscape.



Healthy Soil

- Contains a **web of life** that produces nutrients
- Exchanges water and oxygen through **voids** - the building blocks of soil "community"
- Soil is **compacted** by foot traffic & heavy rains - stay on paths!
- **Amend (improve soil health)** with mulches, grass clippings, compost, minerals (not fertilizer, which focuses on leaf and bloom)

Mulch for all reasons

To act as a sponge...

To prevent evaporation...

To increase organic matter



Mulch for all reasons

To keep roots cool...

...and to beautify your garden!



Types of Mulch

- Grass clippings or *shredded* brown leaves (pesticide/dog free) for vegetable gardens (fast acting: support **bacteria**)
- Brown leaves for perennial gardens (slow acting: support **fungi**)
- Shredded wood mulch for all gardens reduces **evaporation**
- Stone/gravel mulch for all gardens reduces **weeds and increases heat**

Helpful tip

Cedar chips and pine needles contain “terpene”, toxic to many plants and microorganisms.



Use cedar/pine on established perennials, alongside your house/shed (it repels bugs and inhibits weeds)

Do not use in gardens where you want microbial activity, or where you want to encourage the spread of perennial plants



Mulch tips:

- Add to basins, pits, trenches, or on top of gardens
- Keep away from trunks of trees and stems of plants
- Replace or add new every year

Grasscycle

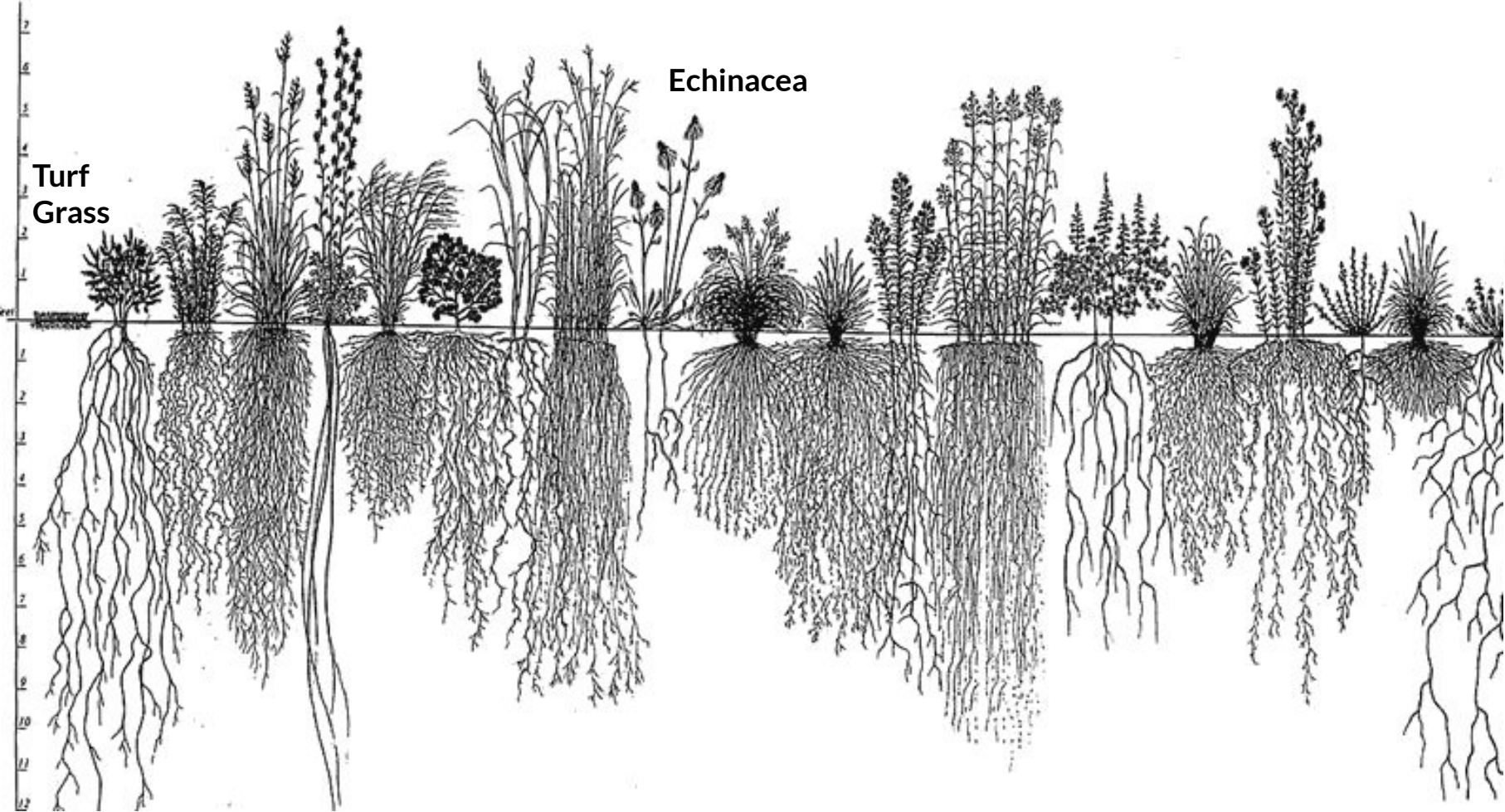
Leave dry grass cuttings after mowing to **mulch** your lawn. Cut when grass is **3-4"**, 1x/week or as needed.



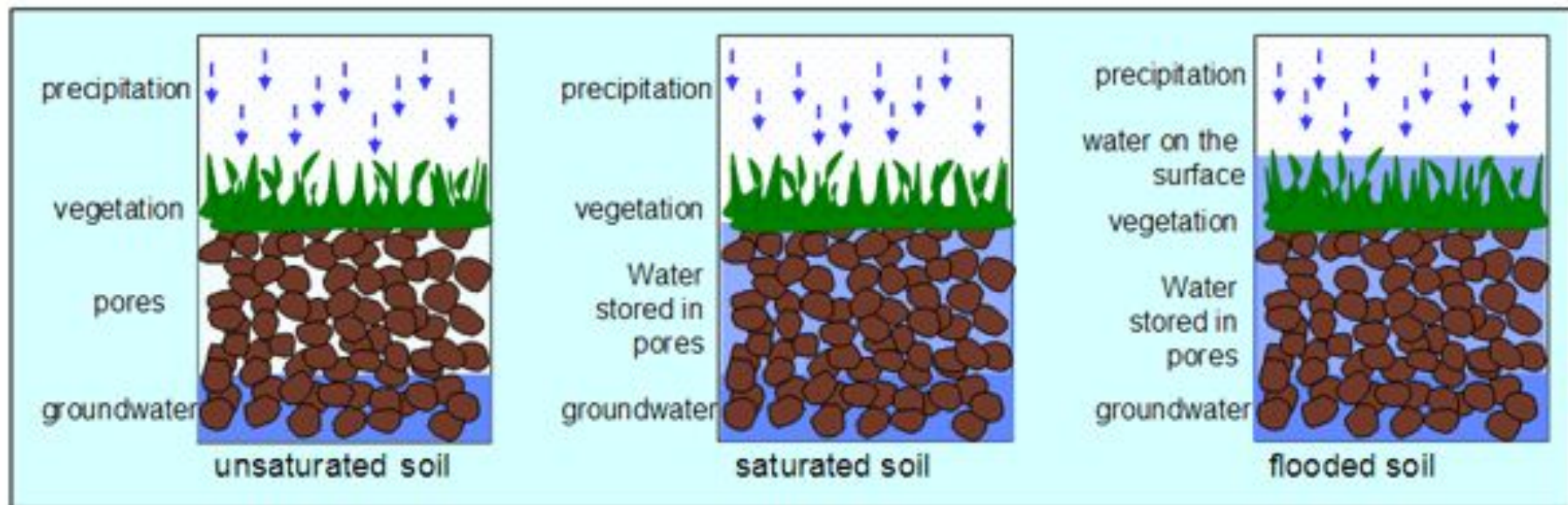
The best compost happens at home

Alternate grass and leaves in a pile or pit, adding water when dry, to make your own garden “superfood”.





Source: 1995 Conservation
Research Institute



Discussion

Share your thoughts in the chat window

What's one thing you want to try in your garden this year?

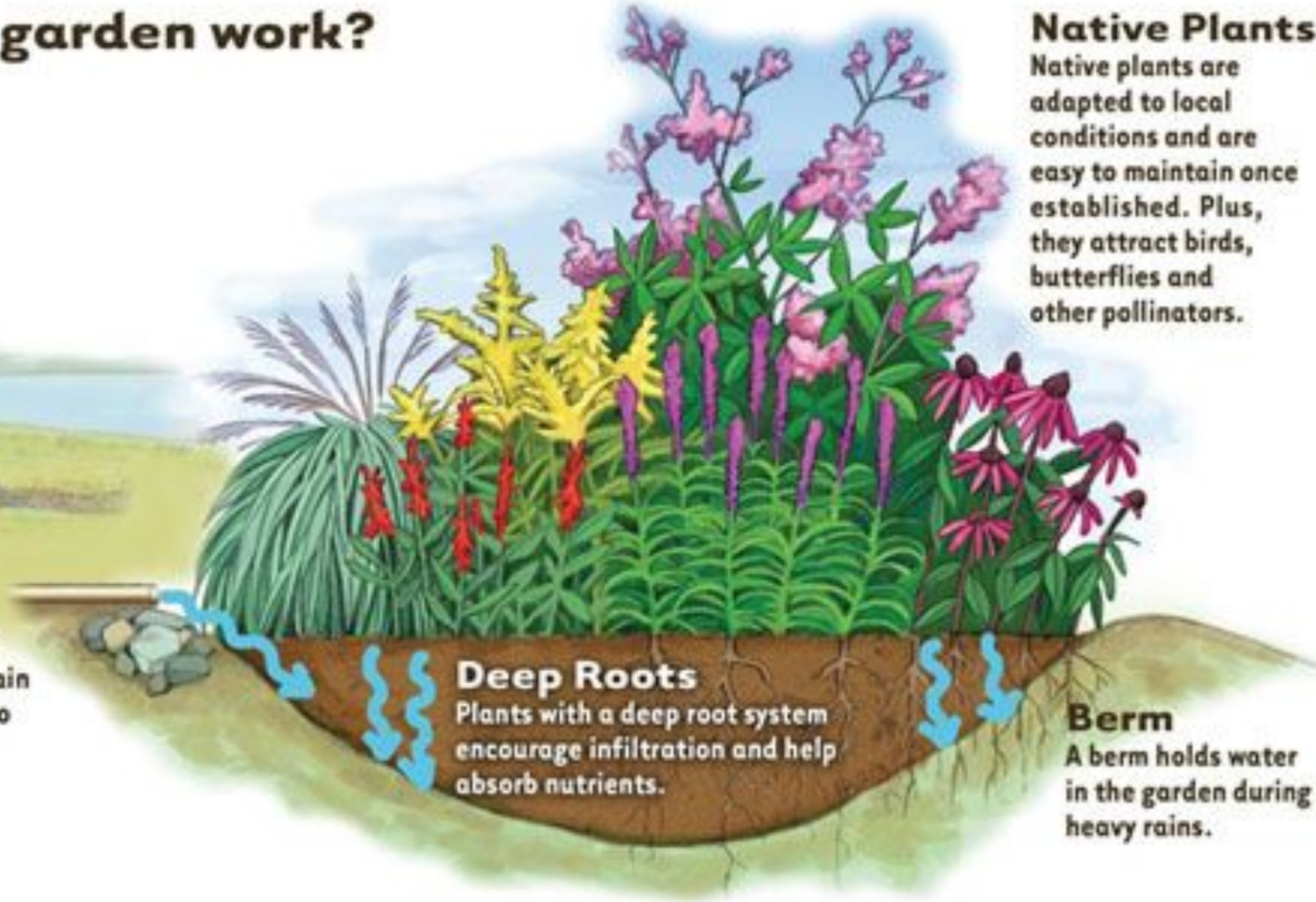
What was the most surprising/important idea so far?

How does a rain garden work?



Gutters & Down Spouts

Assist with directing rain water from your roof to your rain garden.



Deep Roots

Plants with a deep root system encourage infiltration and help absorb nutrients.

Native Plants

Native plants are adapted to local conditions and are easy to maintain once established. Plus, they attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Berm

A berm holds water in the garden during heavy rains.

Raingarden considerations

- Dig a bowl shape, 12-18" deep
- Soil blend: 30% organic matter, 50% sand, 20% top soil
- Keep 3m away from house
- Plant **water loving** plants in deepest part

Visit the Utilities Kingston Plant Database to find beautiful plants to add to your drought resistant garden

Your guide for planting a water-wise garden that blooms all summer long!

June



Siberian Iris
☀️ 2-4 ft.



Geranium Macrorrhizum
● 10-12 in.



Lamium "Pink Pewter"
☀️ 6-8 in.



Gaillardia
☀️ 1-2 ft.

July



Butterfly Weed
☀️ 2-3 ft.



Mossy Stonecrop
☀️ 2-4 in.



Coneflower
☀️ 2-4 ft.



Lady's Mantle
☀️ 1-2 ft.

August



Pearly Everlasting
☀️ 2-3 ft.



Red Hemerocallis
☀️ 1-3 ft.



Russian Sage
☀️ 3-4 ft.



Aster "Heartleaf"
☀️ 2-3 ft.

September



Globe Thistle
☀️ 2-3 ft.



Yarrow
☀️ 1-3 ft.



Black-Eyed Susan
☀️ 2-3 ft.



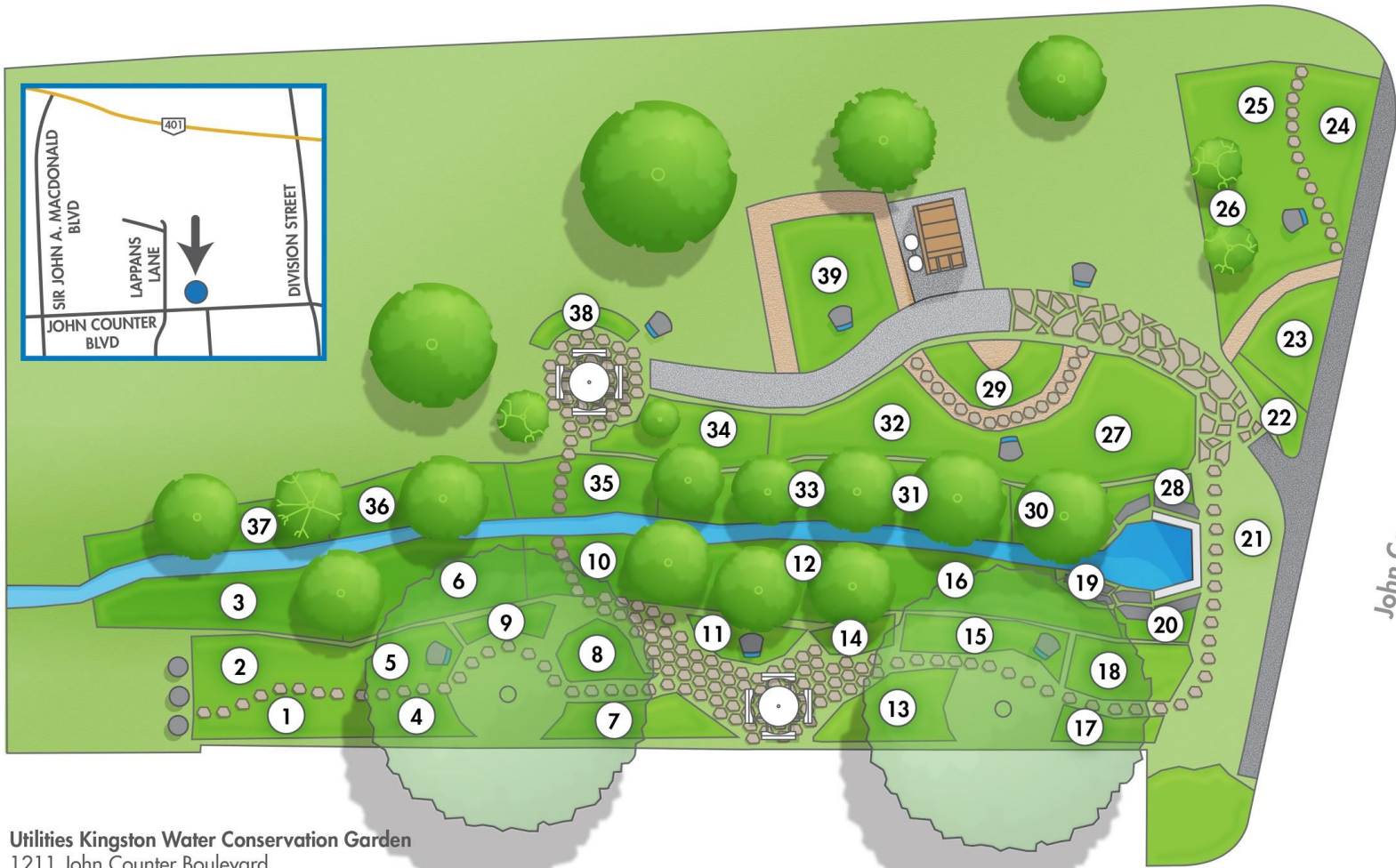
Sedum "Autumn Joy"
☀️ 1-2 ft.

Save water, time and money by building a water-wise garden that 'makes every rain drop count' and that can prevent run-off pollution and flooding. Try incorporating these low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants into your garden this summer!

See these beautiful plants at 1211 John Counter Blvd., where we provide free guided tours in our Water Conservation Garden, during summer, Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 AM.

Learn more at UtilitiesKingston.com/ConservationGarden





John Counter Boulevard

Utilities Kingston Water Conservation Garden
 1211 John Counter Boulevard



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What percentage of households in Kingston use a rainbarrel? Put your guess in the chat window!

34% of us!

Highest percentage of
participation in Canada.

Source:
Stats Canada

2015



**How many of us
have 2 barrels?**



I have no idea, but it's an ideal storage capacity for our region....



**2 barrels =
500L, the
average
rainfall**



Utilities Kingston Rainbarrel Program

- Get on the waiting list by calling 613-546-0000
- You can order more than one per year
- \$50 including HST and delivery, added to your Utilities Kingston bill

Everything Drainage
Foundations
(online?)

July 15 & 25

Everything Drainage
Landscapes
(online?)

August 12 & 22

