

Drainage Issues in the Landscape

A. Where does the water come from and why it doesn't go away

Precipitation, ground water, surface water

Watersheds

Physiographic regions and soil types

Soil texture and structure (particle sizes, pore spaces, well-drained soils vs. not, organic component, compaction)

Soil horizons and water infiltration

Run off (erosion, potential pollutants)

B. Impact of drainage problems

Home damage

Puddles (mud, mosquitoes)

Eroded topsoil, rills, gullies

Lawns and plants (stressed – drowned)

C. Drainage solutions

(...while keeping water on property...)

Improve soil with organic matter to allow for increased infiltration

Plant plants that will tolerate the wetness

Slow roof run off (rain barrels; roll out plastic thing with holes; dry creek bed; plastic pipe directed to a larger area; dry well; cistern...)

Intercept run off before it gets to bottom of slope with rain garden

Grade yard to slow or redirect run off (berms, swales)

Sub-surface drains, catch basins