

STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

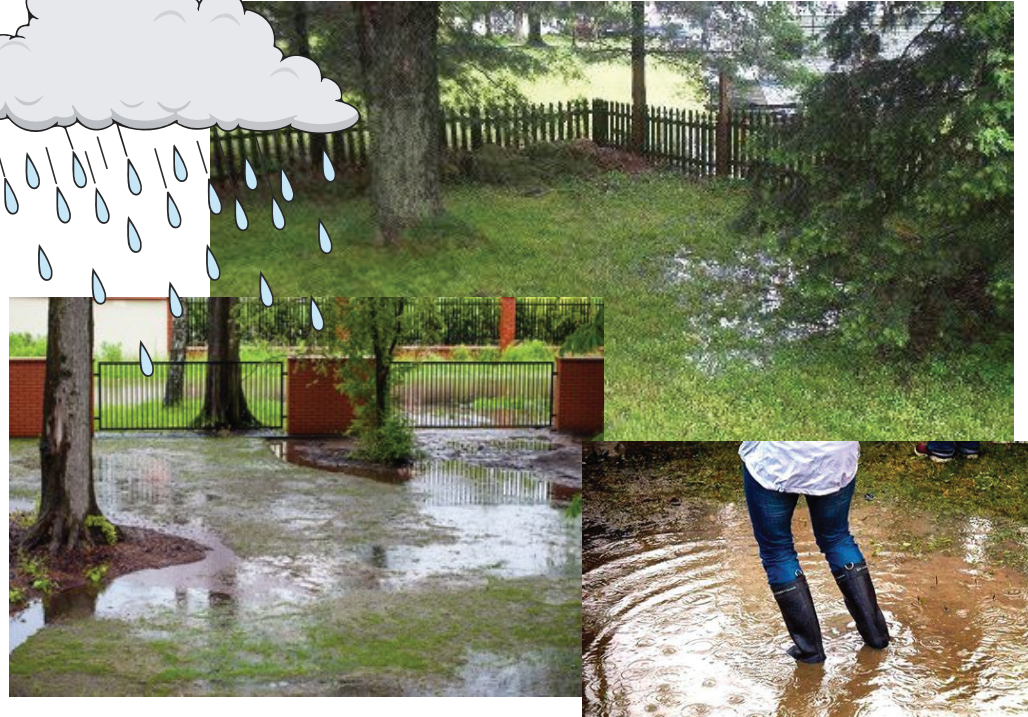
Week 30 July 27, 2021

DOES YOUR YARD GET 'SWAMPY' WHEN IT RAINS?

Sometimes poor drainage is simply the result of oversaturation from heavy rains. If, however, you consistently have swampy areas in your back yard, then an underlying problem may need to be fixed. Although the cause of swampy areas depends on the yard's layout, slope, and soil composition, you may be able to take care of the problem by yourself.



Look at your yard, some causes of poor drainage are low spots in the yard, packed soil, high clay content in the soil and water runoff from gutters. Identifying the cause will make fixing the problem much easier.



WHAT CAN I DO?

Once you have determined the problem areas let the yard dry as much as possible before beginning work and always call 811 before you dig!

Break up the soil in the swampy area with a rototiller. Apply mulch, compost or other organic material to cover the soil you broke up, and use the rototiller on it again. This process allows air into the soil, ensures that it isn't packed and adds water-absorbing organic material that will assist water drainage.

Cover the tilled area with topsoil, and then level the entire area with a yard roller. Check the angle of the yard. If a low spot still exists, then add more topsoil, and level the area again.

Install/repair gutters if necessary, and divert their water drainage away from swampy areas in your back yard. Attach drainage pipes to the downspouts if necessary to direct the runoff elsewhere, but not toward your neighbors!

Install/repair gutters if necessary, and divert their water drainage away from swampy areas in your back yard. Make sure they are also directed away from your foundations. Attach drainage pipes to the downspouts if necessary to direct the runoff elsewhere, ideally onto a downhill slope away from the house but not toward your neighbors!

Dig out a portion of your yard that normally drains well and is near your downspouts. Divert water from the downspouts into the small depression if your back yard continues to have drainage problems.

Apply grass seed or install sod in the areas you tilled and leveled. The grass will prevent erosion and soil from packing while absorbing water from the soil. Keep heavy foot traffic off the seeded areas until grass begins to grow.

You could also put a rain garden in this area and even add a rain barrel to your down spout to alleviate some stormwater runoff!