

# Gardening for Climate Change

## Tip Sheet from Presentation March 25, 2024

<b><u>Combat climate change: use sustainable practices:</u></b>	<b><u>Protect yourself from climate change effects:</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buy locally grown food</li><li>• If possible grow your own herbs and vegetables</li><li>• Move from using gas powered to electric or battery powered garden equipment</li><li>• Where possible, plant trees to aid in shading and cooling along with</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree Placement</li><li>• Add native plants to your garden which are adapted to local climate conditions</li><li>• Plant to promote shade around your AC unit</li><li>• Grow vertical/cover walls</li><li>• Garden Up</li><li>• Manage stormwater</li></ul>

### Protect yourself against climate change – Tree Placement

Use your surroundings to save energy (University of Maryland Extension, n.d.):

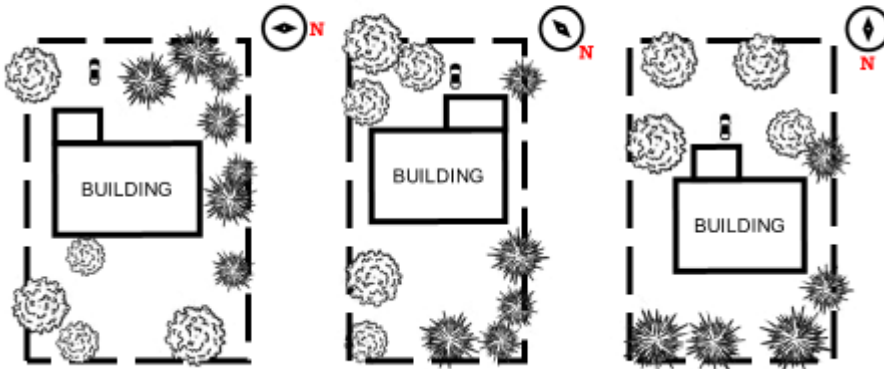
- Plant deciduous trees on the west, east, and southwest sides of a building to block sun in summer and allow sun to penetrate and warm your house in winter.
- Plant evergreen trees on the northwest side of a building to block winter winds.

Tip Sheet Available at

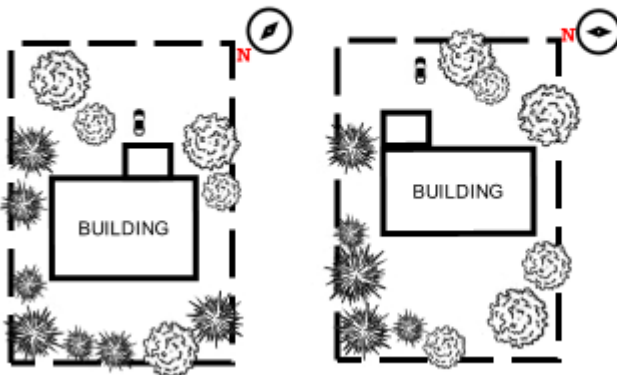
[Gardening for Climate Change Reference Sheet March 25, 2024 \(durhammastergardeners.ca\)](#)



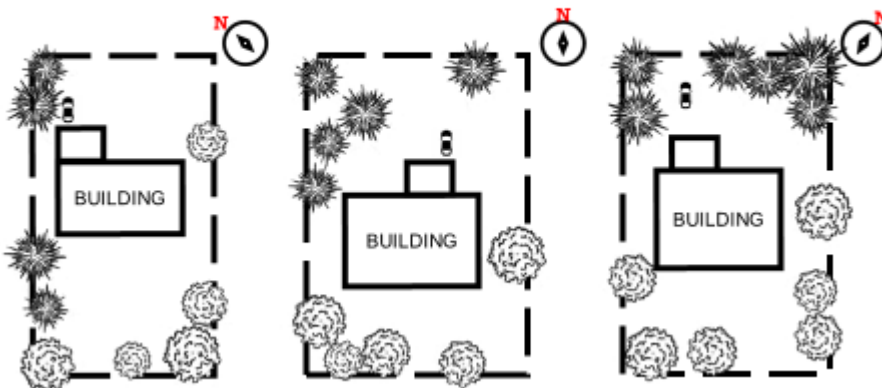
Protect yourself against climate change – Tree Placement



Protect yourself against climate change – Tree Placement



Protect yourself against climate change – Tree Placement



## Protect yourself against climate change – redesign the space around your AC unit

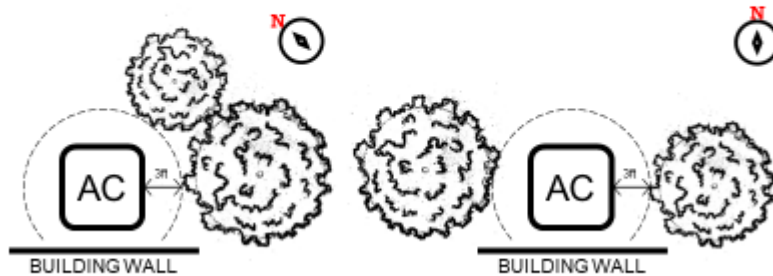
Use your surroundings to save energy (University of Maryland Extension, n.d.):

- Build a small fence/screen around your air conditioning unit along with adding a canvas or other type of fabric at the top to provide shade.
- Plant small trees or shrubs to provide shade over your AC unit ensuring that their mature height is greater than that of the AC unit.
- Make sure to leave at least three feet of space (3ft) for air circulation and accessibility for any maintenance of the unit.

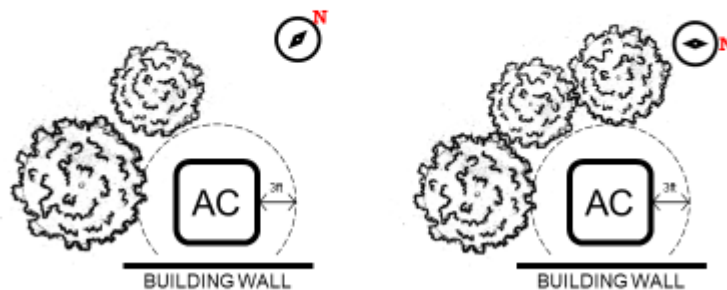


[University of Maryland Extension \(n.d.\). Sustainable Gardening: Solutions to Climate Change. Retrieved September 17, 2022.](#)

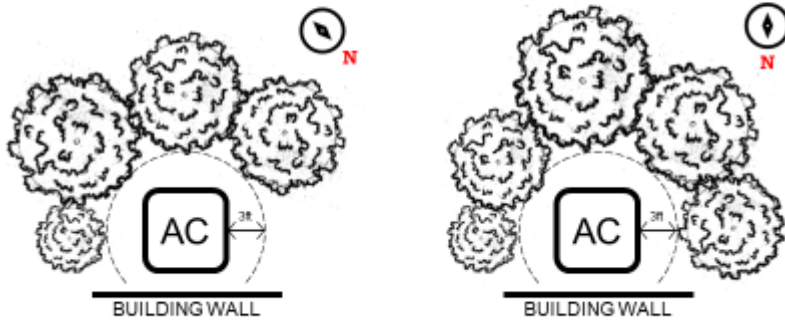
## Protect yourself against climate change – redesign the space around your AC units



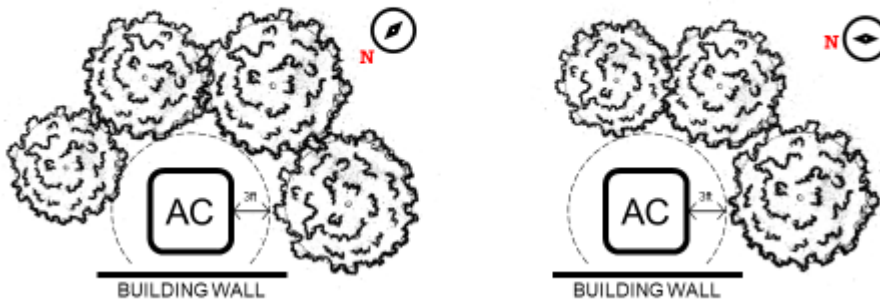
## Protect yourself against climate change – redesign the space around your AC unit



Protect yourself against climate change –  
redesign the space around your AC unit

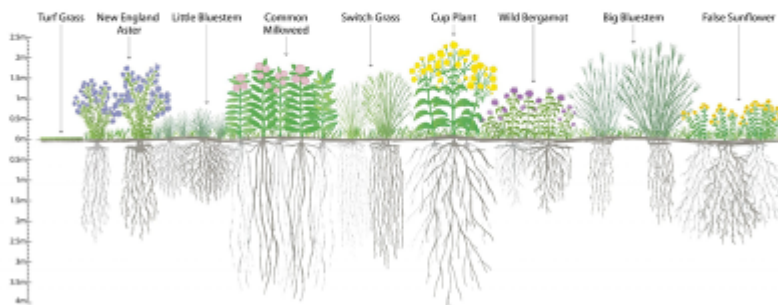


Protect yourself against climate change –  
redesign the space around your AC unit



Protect yourself against climate change –  
introduce native plants

Why native?



## Perennial Wall

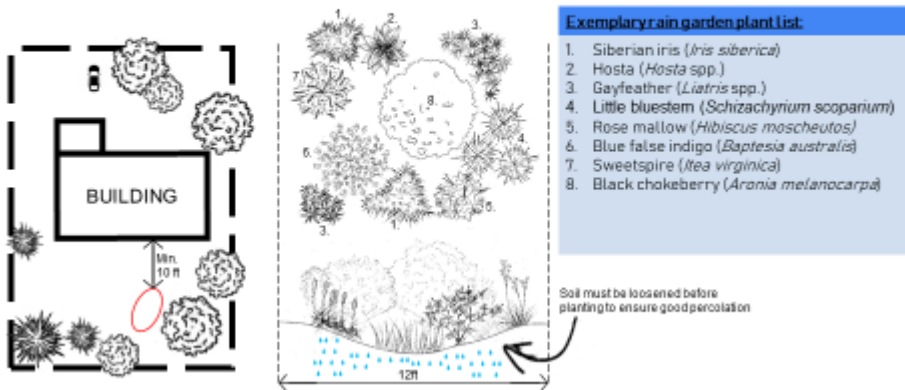
- *Allium*
- *Amsonia Blue Star*
- *Bergenia*
- *Perennial Geranium*
- *Heuchera*
- *Nepeta (Cat Mint)*
- *Sedum*.



Livewall.com Michigan

Note there is a separate Tip Sheet for Rain Gardens

## Manage Storm water: Rain Garden



## Additional Plants to consider for Rain Gardens

The only shrub in this list is the Ninebark the rest are perennials.

Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*)

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Black-Eyed Susan ([Rudbeckia hirta](#))

Common Boneset *Eupatorium perfoliatum*

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Cardinal Flower ( *Lobelia cardinalis*)

## Manage storm water: Vegetated Buffer



[Source: Stormwater Management: Creating Life-Supporting Wetlands, Trees, and Buffers. American Rain Water & Gardening Society](#)

### Vegetated buffers:

- slow, capture, and filter stormwater runoff
- remove nutrients, sediments, chemicals, and other pollutants that can otherwise flow to water bodies and pose health risks to people and wildlife
- improve groundwater supplies and reduce flooding and drainage problems
- help prevent erosion by shielding the ground from rainfall and stabilizing soils with their roots

### Structure:

- dense growth of shrubs, trees, high grasses, perennials, and other plants
- buffers should be at least **30 feet** wide to provide reliable stormwater treatment near wetland resource areas. To serve as wildlife corridors, buffers should typically be even wider than those designed for water quality protection
- preferably **continuous**: along the entire length of a driveway or other impervious surface maximizes its capacity to capture and treat stormwater runoff
- a continuous buffer along the edge of the waterbody to be protected maximizes the capture and treatment of contaminants

### Location:

- along the border of waterbodies or adjacent to impervious areas such as **driveways, patios, rooftops, and other surfaces that do not absorb water**

[Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. \(July, 2022\). Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners Fact Sheet: Vegetated Buffers. Retrieved December 16, 2022](#)

Copied from Gardening Climate Change Presentation condensed Version

Pam Clarke, March 24, 2024