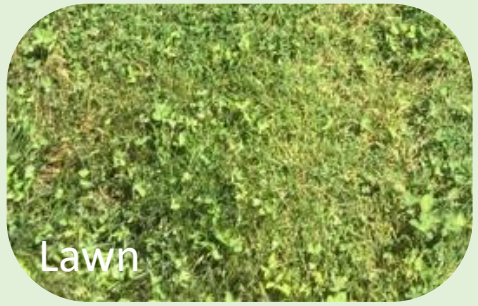
Impervious Surfaces



Impervious Surface Definition: Surfaces that allow little to no water to pass through. Examples of impervious surfaces are roofs, parking lots, compacted soil, and streets or anything else made from asphalt, concrete or plastic that does not allow water to infiltrate into the ground.

Pervious Surface Definition: Surfaces that allow for water to pass through. Examples of pervious surfaces include vegetated areas, lawns, crushed open stone aggregate, and permeable pavers.

The Nursery Garden:
The nursery rain garden receives water runoff from the shed roof and the adjacent gravel parking lot. While gravel parking lots are more conducive to infiltration than paved ones, they do not allow a high level of deep infiltration to occur and are considered impervious. Over time, parking areas also become compacted which limits their treatment capacity. Gravel is made up of small stone typically ¼ to 2½ inch, sand, and a small amount of fines. This combination of stone sizes allows the surface to compact thus eliminating pore space and, in most cases, shed water.

The building runoff is collected and directed to the garden by the roof gutter and grassed swale. Rain gardens collecting roof runoff are often connected through a pipe, a drainage swale, or through a rain barrel. If there are no gutters on the structure, small gardens can be established along the drip line or a gravel curtain can be installed. When working close to buildings always make sure there will not be a negative impact on the structure's foundation.