



**Landscaping Ring by Ring . .**

Your neighbors may prefer a neatly mowed landscape for their nearby yard, but a natural landscape may appeal to them for the local stormwater pond, especially when they understand the water quality and wildlife benefits native plants provide. This drawing shows a potential landscape plan for a typical stormwater pond. Two vegetation rings are in the pond itself. In the center of the pond, aquatic plants such as wild celery and sago pondweed grow under the water. Around the pond's edge, a ring of wetland plants such as bulrushes emerge from the shallow water. Above the pond, additional rings of vegetation enhance the pond even more. Along the shoreline is a ring of sedges and other plants adapted to wet conditions. Just upslope, above the highwater mark for an average two year storm, is a ring of red osier dogwood and other plants that can tolerate frequent flooding. The outermost ring, in the storage for the 10 year storm, contains shrubs like silky dogwood and grasses such as fescue that can tolerate limited flooding. Beyond this ring is upland vegetation including tall grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and even trees.