

So you have a garden and you want to prevent a common occurrence called erosion control. What is it? How do you prevent such a thing if you don't really know what it is?

Erosion control is the practice of preventing or controlling wind or water erosion in agriculture — for our purposes — gardening. This, in turn, is important to prevent water pollution and soil loss. Erosion control often involves the use of a physical barrier to absorb some of the energy from the force causing the erosion. Obviously we all can't have an indoor greenhouse to protect from the wind or a barreling rainstorm, so you can utilize other forms of barriers, such as vegetation or rock. Fred Turner, master gardener, uses a raised platform bed (below) and rock barriers in the garden area.



Photo: Roger Munger



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There are many different items that may be used to prevent erosion control. Mulching is a great use of organic material that can cover the garden to protect it from erosion and provide nutrient as well. Perennial plants can also be used to buffer the surrounding areas of the garden. Other examples include, cellular confinement systems, contour plowing, bioswales, crop rotation, and reforestation. Not all of these would be prudent in the average home garden, but would be used in agriculture and urban landscaping.

So when you consider creating your garden and landscaping around it, consider what you need to prevent erosion control. Then, not only will the yard look good, you will have a thriving and fruitful harvest from the garden.