Joys of Gardening

To maintain the health of the lawn, plants, shrubs and trees, as well as protecting the foundations of your house, it's important to ensure that the earth has a good drainage system. Moreover, soil that is constantly saturated encourages mildew and is harmful to healthy plants, even those which need a lot of moisture.

A drainage system consists of perforated tubes or drainage pipes installed in a channel and covered with a geotextile liner that will allow water to drain through to the pipe but will keep solid matter on the outside, everything being covered with at least 15 cm of gravel.

If your land is flooded on a regular basis, the best solution is to build at least one retention basin, if not two. Find the best site and dig a hole approximately one metre deep with a circumference of 75 cm. Ensure that the sides are absolutely straight. Fill the hole with pebbles or crushed bricks. Direct the surface drains towards this basin. The water that runs into the basin will percolate into the earth at the bottom. It looks better if you camouflage the retention basin. All you need to do is compact the pebbles well, leaving an indentation of about five centimetres, then cover the pebbles with a geotextile liner and finish off with a layer of earth, grass seeds or turf.

Also, water shouldn't be allowed to accumulate behind a supporting wall, next to a foundation, at the base of a fence or under any structure that is likely to be damaged by water accumulation. Remember that the basic requirements of a drainage system are perforated pipes and gravel.

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