

Suggested Plants for Rain Gardens

Plants appropriate for rain gardens are those that can tolerate standing water for short periods of time. A rain garden should drain completely in 24-48 hours. Most of the time the soil will be dry to moist but not wet. Any plant suitable for the amount of sunlight at your site and average to dry soil can be used on the upper edge and outer parts of the rain garden. Plants listed below are for the sides and bottom of the garden where plants will be inundated with water.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Sun	Part Shade	Heavy Shade	Spacing between plants
WOODIES					
Aronia a. 'Brilliantissima'	Red Chokeberry Brilliantissima	X	X		36"
Aronia m. 'Iroquois Beauty'	Black Chokeberry Iroquois Beauty	X	X		36"
Betula nigra 'Little King'	Dwarf River Birch Little King	X	X		5'
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	X	X		4-5'
Clematis virginiana	Virgin's Bower	X	X		3-4'
Cornus racemosa	Gray Dogwood	X	X	X	4'
Cornus sericea 'Cardinal'	Red Twig Dogwood, Redosier Dogwood	X	X		3-4'
Diervilla lonicera	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	X	X	X	36"
Fothergilla gardenii	Fothergilla	X	X		3-4'
Hydrangea arb. 'Annabelle'	Annabelle Smooth Hydrangea	X	X	X	4'
Hydrangea arb. 'Hayes Starburst'	Hayes Starburst Smooth Hydrangea	X	X		3'
Hydrangea arb. 'White Dome'	White Dome Smooth Hydrangea	X	X		4'
Ilex verticillata	Winterberry Holly (many cultivars available)	X	X		3-4'
Itea v. 'Little Henry'	Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire	X	X	X	3'
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush		X	X	4'
Physocarpus 'Coppertina'	Ninebark 'Coppertina'	X			4'
Physocarpus 'Summer Wine'	Ninebark 'Summer Wine'	X			3'
Rosa x species	Shrub Rose (many cultivars available)	x	x		
Thuja o. 'Filiformis'	Thread-Leaf Arborvitae	X			2-3'
Thuja o. 'Technito'	Technito Arborvitae	X			4'
Thuja p. 'George Washington'	George Washington Arborvitae	X			4'
Thuja p. 'Virescens'	Virescens Arborvitae	X			5'
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum	X	X		6'
Viburnum dentatum 'Blue Muffin'	Blue Muffin Arrowwood Viburnum	X	X		5'
Viburnum dentatum 'Chicago Lustre'	Chicago Lustre Arrowwood Viburnum	X	X		6'
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw Viburnum	X	X	X	8'
Viburnum trilobum 'Redwing'	Redwing Cranberrybush Viburnum	X	X		6'
PERENNIALS					
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild Columbine		X	X	18"
Aralia racemosa	American Spikenard		X	X	24"
Aruncus dioicus	Goat's Beard		X		24"
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	X	X		24"
Aster cordifolius 'Avondale'	Avondale Blue Wood Aster		X	X	24"
Aster laevis 'Blue Bird'	Blue Bird Smooth Aster	X	X		18"
Aster novae-angliae 'Purple Dome'	Purple Dome New England Aster	X	X		18"
Aster obl. 'Raydon's Favorite'	Raydon's Favorite Aromatic Aster	X	X		18"
Baptisia australis	Blue False Indigo	X	X		36"
Chelone glabra	Turtlehead	X	X		24"
Chelone lyonii 'Hot Lips'	Hot Lips Pink Turtlehead	X	X		18"
Coreopsis palmata	Plains Coreopsis	X	X		18"
Dicentra spectabilis	Old Fashioned Bleeding Heart		X	X	24"
Dicentra spectabilis 'Alba'	White Bleeding Heart		X	X	24"
Echinacea p 'Rubinstern'	Purple Coneflower 'Ruby Star'	X			18"
Eupatorium coelestinum	Hardy Ageratum, Mist Flower	X	X		24"
Eupatorium dubium 'Little Joe'	Little Joe Joe Pye Weed	X	X		24-36"
Eupatorium m. 'Baby Joe'	Baby Joe Pye Weed	X	X		18-24"
Eupatorium maculatum	Joe Pye Weed (many cultivars available)	X	X		24-36"
Filipendula rubra	Queen of the Prairie	X			24-36"
Geranium maculatum	Wild Cransbill		X	X	15"
Helianthus angustifolius 'Gold Lace'	Gold Lace Sunflower	X	X		3-4'

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<i>Helianthus microcephalus</i>	Small-headed Sunflower	X	X		3-4'
<i>Heliopsis h.</i> 'Summer Nights'	Summer Nights False Sunflower	X	X		24"
<i>Hibiscus sp.</i>	Hardy Hibiscus (many cultivars available)	X	X		36"
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	X	X		18"
<i>Iris louisiana hybrids</i>	Louisiana Iris (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazing Star	X	X		12-18"
<i>Liatris spicata</i> 'Alba'	White Dense Blazing Star	X	X		12-18"
<i>Liatris squarrosa</i>	Plains Blazing Star	X	X		12-18"
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower		X	X	15'
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	X	X		15"
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells		X	X	18"
<i>Monarda</i> 'Blue Stocking'	Bee Balm 'Blue Stocking'	X	X		18-24"
<i>Monarda</i> 'Gardenview Scarlet'	Bee Balm 'Gardenview Scarlet'	X	X		18-24"
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	X			12-18"
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i> 'Morris Berd'	Smooth Phlox 'Morris Berd'	X	X		18"
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacobs Ladder		X	X	18"
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal		X	X	18"
<i>Polygonatum commutatum</i>	Great Solomon's Seal		X	X	24"
<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>	Short-toothed Mountain Mint	X	X		18"
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Prairie Coneflower	X	X		18"
<i>Rudbeckia l.</i> 'Herbstsonne'	Autumn Sun Coneflower	X	X		24-36"
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i> 'Henry Eilers'	Sweet Coneflower Henry Eilers	X	X		18"
<i>Senecio aureus</i>	Heart-leaved Groundsel, Golden Ragwort		X	X	12"
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant	X			24-36"
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup Plant	X			36"
<i>Silphium trifoliatum</i>	Rosin-weed	X			36"
<i>Solidago caesia</i>	Woodland Goldenrod	X	X	X	24"
<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks'	Fireworks Goldenrod	X	X		24"
<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	Wood Poppy		X	X	18-24"
<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	Ohio Spiderwort	X	X		15"
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Iron Weed	X	X		24"
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culvers Root	X	X		24"
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	X	X		18"
GRASSES					
<i>Acorus americanus</i>	Sweet Flag	X	X		18"
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag	X	X		18"
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	X	X		24"
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Burr Sedge		X	X	18"
<i>Carex laxiculmis</i> 'Hobb'	Bunny Blue		X	X	12"
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Northern Sea Oats	X	X		18"
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	X	X	X	24-36"
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	X	X		18"
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Cloud Nine'	Cloud Nine Switchgrass	X	X		24-36"
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Heavy Metal'	Heavy Metal Switchgrass	X	X		24"
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'North Wind'	North Wind Switchgrass	X	X		24-36"
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Prairie Fire'	Prairie Fire Switchgrass	X	X		24"
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah'	Shenandoah Switchgrass	X	X		24"
<i>Sorghastrum n.</i> 'Sioux Blue'	Sioux Blue Indian Grass	X	X		24"
FERNS					
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	Maidenhair Fern		X	X	18"
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern		X	X	18"
<i>Dryopteris goldiana</i>	Goldie's Fern		X	X	24"
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern		X		24"
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern		X		18"
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinammon Fern		X		18"
<i>Osmunda regalis v. spectabilis</i>	Royal Fern		X	X	18"
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern		X	X	18"