

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					
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Service Berry	X	X		7-8'
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	X	X		3-4'
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	X	X		3-4'
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Paw Paw	X	X	X	7-10'
<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Little King'	Dwarf River Birch	X	X		5'
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	X	X		4-5'
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic White Cedar (many cultivars available)	X	X		2-3' (depends on cltv)
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgin's Bower	X	X		3-4'
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	X	X		3-5'
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	X	X	X	4'
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Twig Dogwood, Redosier Dogwood	X	X		3-4'
<i>Corylus americana</i>	Hazelnut	X	X		4-5'
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle	X	X	X	3-4'
<i>Hammamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	X	X		6'
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea (many cultivars available)	X	X	X	4'
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry Holly (many cultivars available)	X	X		3-4'
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire (many cultivars available)	X	X	X	3'
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar	X	X		5-8'
<i>Larix laricina</i>	American Larch	X			10-15'
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush		X	X	4'
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark (many cultivars available)	X	X		3-4'
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	X	X		20-30'
<i>Rosa x species</i>	Shrub Rose (many cultivars available)	X	X		2-3'
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry	X	X		3-4'
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Meadow-sweet	X	X		2-3'
<i>Taxodium disticum</i>	Bald Cypress	X	X		10-15'
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	White Cedar (many cultivars available)	X			2-3'
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western Cedar (many cultivars available)	X			4'
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum (many cultivars available)	X	X		6'
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	X	X	X	8'
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> 'Redwing'	Cranberrybush Viburnum	X	X		6'
PERENNIALS					
<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Wild Columbine		X	X	18"
<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	American Spikenard		X	X	24"
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard		X		24"
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	X	X		24"
<i>Aster cordifolius</i>	Blue Wood Aster		X	X	24"
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Aster	X	X		18"
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	Aromatic Aster (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
<i>Aster umbellatus</i>	Flat-topped Aster	X	X		24"
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue False Indigo	X	X		36"
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	X	X		18"
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Turtlehead	X	X		24"
<i>Chelone lyonii</i> 'Hot Lips'	Hot Lips Pink Turtlehead	X	X		18"
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall Coreopsis	X	X		24"
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Old Fashioned Bleeding Heart		X	X	24"
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower (many cultivars available)	X			18"
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Hardy Ageratum, Mist Flower	X	X		24"
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe Pye Weed (many cultivars available)	X	X		24-36"
<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	Purple Joe Pye Weed	X	X		24-36"

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Eupatorium serotinum	Late-flowering Thoroughwort	X	X		24-36"
Filipendula rubra	Queen of the Prairie	X			24-36"
Geranium maculatum	Wild Cransbill		X	X	18"
Helianthus microcephalus	Small-headed Sunflower	X	X		36"
Heliopsis helianthoides	Ox-eye Sunflower	X	X		24"
Hibiscus sp.	Hardy Hibiscus (many cultivars available)	X	X		36"
Iris versicolor	Blue Flag Iris	X	X		18"
Iris louisiana hybrids	Louisiana Iris (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
Liatris spicata	Dense Blazing Star	X	X		12-18"
Lobelia cardinalis	Cardinal Flower		X	X	18"
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia	X	X		18"
Mertensia virginica	Virginia Bluebells		X	X	18"
Monarda sp.	Bee Balm (many species & cultivars available)	X	X		18-24"
Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove Beardtongue	X			12-18"
Phlox glaberrima	Smooth Phlox (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
Phlox maculata	Spotted Phlox (many cultivars available)	X	X		18"
Polemonium reptans	Jacobs Ladder		X	X	18"
Polygonatum biflorum	Solomon's Seal		X	X	18"
Polygonatum commutatum	Great Solomon's Seal		X	X	24"
Pycnanthemum muticum	Short-toothed Mountain Mint	X	X		18"
Ratibida pinnata	Prairie Coneflower	X	X		18"
Rudbeckia laciniata	Greenheaded Coneflower	X	X		24-36"
Rudbeckia maxima	Dumbo's Ears	X	X		24-36"
Senecio aureus	Heart-leaved Groundsel, Golden Ragwort		X	X	12"
Senna hebecarpa	Wild Senna	X	X		24-36"
Silphium laciniatum	Compass Plant	X			24-36"
Silphium perfoliatum	Cup Plant	X			36"
Silphium terebinthinaceum	Prairie Dock	X			36"
Solidago caesia	Woodland Goldenrod	X	X	X	24"
Solidago rugosa 'Fireworks'	Fireworks Goldenrod	X	X		24"
Stylophorum diphyllum	Wood Poppy		X	X	18-24"
Tradescantia ohioensis	Ohio Spiderwort	X	X		18"
Vernonia noveboracensis	New York Iron Weed	X	X		24"
Veronicastrum virginicum	Culvers Root	X	X		24"
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	X	X		18"
GRASSES					
Acorus americanus	Sweet Flag	X	X		18"
Andropogon gerardii	Big Bluestem	X	X		24"
Carex grayi	Burr Sedge		X	X	18"
Carex muskingumensis	Muskingum Sedge	X	X		18"
Carex stricta	Tussock Sedge	X	X		18"
Chasmanthium latifolium	Northern Sea Oats	X	X		18"
Hierochloe odorata	Sweetgrass	X			18"
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	X	X		18"
Juncus tenuis	Path Rush	X	X	X	6-12"
Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass (many cultivars available)	X	X		18-36"
Sorghastrum nutans	Indian Grass	X	X		24"
FERNS					
Adiantum pedatum	Maidenhair Fern		X	X	18"
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady Fern		X	X	18"
Dryopteris clintoniana	Clinton's Wood Fern		X		12-18"
Dryopteris cristata	Crested Wood Fern		X		12-18"
Dryopteris goldiana	Goldie's Fern		X	X	24"
Matteuccia struthiopteris	Ostrich Fern		X		24"
Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive Fern		X		18"
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinamon Fern		X		18"
Osmunda claytoniana	Interrupted Fern				
Osmunda regalis v. spectabilis	Royal Fern		X	X	18"
Polystichum acrostichoides	Christmas Fern		X	X	18"