

Rain garden plant list

Native? N = Native, C = Native cultivar (“Nativar”), NFH = Not From around Here

Sun/Shade: Sn = sun, P = part sun, Sh = Shade

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Bloom Color | Height | Bloom Time | Spacing (o.c.) | Resists Deer? | Native? | Size | Sun/ Shade |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|------------|
| Full Shade | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Actaea rubra</i> | Red Baneberry | White | 12-36" | May | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sh |
| <i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i> | Blue Cohosh | Green | 24" | April | 12" | Y | N | quart | Sh |
| <i>Hydrophyllum virginianum</i> | Virginia Waterleaf | Lavender | 1-1.5' | May-June | 10" | | N | quart | Sh |
| <i>Symphotrichum oblongifolius</i> 'October Skies' | October Skies Aster | Lt. Blue/Lavender | 4-5' | Sept-Oct | 18" | | C | gallon | Sh |

Part Shade to Shade

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------|------------|--------|---|---|---------------|-------|
| <i>Adiantum pedatum</i> | Maidenhair Fern | n/a | 12" | n/a | 12" | Y | N | 3" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Anthyrium filix-femina</i> | Lady Fern | n/a | 24-36" | n/a | 24" | Y | N | gallon | P, Sh |
| <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | Columbine | Red/Yellow | 12-36" | May | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Asarum canadense</i> | Wild Ginger | Maroon | 8" | May | 12" | Y | N | gal or #1 pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | Swamp Milkweed | Pink/Purple | 3-4' | July | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Carex grayi</i> | Gray's Sedge | n/a | 18" | May-June | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Carex sprengelii</i> | Sprengel's Sedge | n/a | 18" | May-June | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal Flower | Red | 3' | July-Aug | 12" | | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | Ostrich Fern | n/a | 36" | n/a | 18" | Y | N | gallon | P, Sh |
| <i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> | Interrupted Fern | n/a | 12-24" | n/a | 12" | Y | N | gallon | P, Sh |
| <i>Phlox divaricata</i> | Woodland Phlox | Blue | .5-1' | April-June | 8" | | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Solidago flexicaulis</i> | Zigzag Goldenrod | Yellow | 2-3' | Aug-Oct | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Solidago rigida</i> | Rigid Goldenrod | Yellow | 3-4' | July | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i> | Wood Poppy | Yellow | 1-2' | April-June | 10" | | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |
| <i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> | Early Meadow Rue | Pale Green | 1.5-2' | April-May | 10" | | N | 2" pot | P, Sh |

Sun to Part Sun

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|--------|---|---|--------|-------|
| <i>Allium cernuum</i> | Nodding Wild Onion | Lt. Lavender | 12" | Sept-Oct | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Carex hystericina</i> | Porcupine Sedge | n/a | 2-3' | June-Oct | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Chelone lyonii</i> 'Hot Lips' | Hot Lips Turtlehead | Pink | 2-3' | Aug-Sept | 18-24" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple Coneflower | Pink/Lavender | 3-3.5' | July-Aug | 12-18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus' | Magnus Purple Coneflower | Pink/Lavender | 2.5-3' | July-Aug | 12-18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Snowcone' | Snowcone Cone Flower | White | 2.5-3' | June-Aug | 12-18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> 'Little Joe' | Joe Pye Weed – Little Joe | Dusky Pink | 4-5' | Aug-Sept | 24" | | C | #2 pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> | Joe Pye Weed | Dusky Pink | 5-6' | July-Aug | 24" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Liatris spicata</i> | Blazing Star | Pink/Purple | 3-5' | July | 10" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Liatris spicata</i> 'Kobold' | Kobold Blazing Star | Pink/Purple | 2' | July | 12-18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Monarda punctata</i> | Horsemint | White-Pink | 18-30" | July-Aug | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> | White Beardtongue | White | 3-4' | June | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> | Obedient Plant | Pink | 2-3' | Sept-Oct | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Potentilla simplex</i> | Common cinquefoil | Yellow | 6-12" | May-June | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Ranunculus hispidus</i> | Swamp Buttercup | Yellow | 1' | May | 18" | Y | N | quart | Sn, P |
| <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | Black-eyed Susan | Yellow | 1-3' | July-Oct | 12" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> 'Goldsturm' | Goldsturm Black-eyed Susan | Golden Yellow | 2' | July-Sept | 18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Symphotrichum dumosus</i> 'Woods Light Blue' | Woods Blue Aster | Lavender | 1-2' | Aug-Oct | 18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Symphotrichum laevis</i> | Smooth Aster | Lt. Blue/Lavender | 4-5' | Sept-Oct | 12-18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> | New England Aster | Deep Purple | 4-5' | Sept-Oct | 12-18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> 'Vibrant Dome' | New England Aster Vibrant Dome | Deep Purple | 1.5-2' | Sept-Oct | 18" | | C | gallon | Sn, P |



These plants have been fully vetted by the Washtenaw County rain garden program – by residents like you! These plants thrived in rain gardens and people liked them.

Moisture: D = Dry, M = Medium, Ms = Moist, W = Wet

Moisture Comments

| | |
|-------------|--|
| M, Ms | good for woodland setting, not especially showy, best massed for a nice texture, poisonous |
| Ms | good for woodland setting, not terribly showy, but interesting foliage and berries for those who like diversity |
| M, Ms, W | not especially showy, best massed for even texture, can take water |
| D, M | facier plant on drier edges |
| M, Ms | short plant, beautiful lacy texture. Resents the dry. |
| M, Ms | beautiful fern |
| D, M, Ms | delicate texture, great for woodland setting |
| M, Ms | good low, facier plant with interesting heart-shaped leaves that form a contrast texture, straight native species, but WT not cultivating at this time |
| M, Ms, W | when full grown, a little leggy-looking and needs plants in front, good for clay |
| M, Ms | interesting seed heads if get close |
| D, M, Ms | clumper, good for drier edges, seed heads shoot up 2-3' |
| M, Ms | a little picky, likes moist best, narrow form, can be short lived but will re-seed if happy, aesthetically best used with shorter plants around |
| M, Ms | doesn't like to dry out, can be aggressive if happy, good for clay |
| M, Ms, W | tall, similar to Ostrich Fern, but holds up better in the late summer |
| M, Ms | use sparingly in woodland setting with great soils, foliage goes dormant in summer so plan for companions |
| D, M, Ms | aggressive, but fills in large areas in the shade, delicate late season color for shade |
| D, M, Ms, W | subtle for a goldenrod, great for clay, leggy, so put a facier plant in front |
| M, Ms | good for spring in woodland setting, but can be aggressive |
| M, Ms | great plant for delicate texture in woodlands setting – beautiful with iris, but not a bottom of the rain garden plant |
| D, M, Ms | good short, neat plant for front |
| Ms, W | good workhorse for all settings, provides nice texture if massed |
| D, M, Ms | good for clay, neat and long blooming, combines beautifully with Joe Pye Weed |
| D, M, Ms | good for clay, good butterfly plant |
| D, M, Ms | good for clay, more compact and full than straight species, good butterfly plant |
| D, M, Ms | good for clay, good butterfly plant |
| D, M, Ms | shorter version of following straight species |
| D, M, Ms | really tall and dramatic, draws beneficial insects |
| M, Ms | a clumper, flower spike can get quite tall, needs facier plant in front, nice color for that time of season, can take clay |
| M, Ms | a clumper, a great cultivated version of the species, full form w/ multiple flower spikes, can take clay |
| D, M, Ms | has showy, dramatic bracts, can get a little spindly, prefers sandy soils, self-sows, bee attractor, salt tolerant |
| D, M, Ms | fills the void of blooming native plants in June, good for clay, but can look a little leggy – needs a facier |
| D, M, Ms | good plant for late season color, can be aggressive (use with someone who is not much of a weeder and doesn't like space between plants) |
| D, M | good native groundcover under drier parts of the garden, can spread into lawn (make sure OK with owner) |
| M, Ms, W | spreader, aggressive in the right soils. |
| D, M, Ms | short-lived, but aggressively self-sows, not especially neat, and can look tired when it is done – best used with native lover, good for clay |
| D, M, Ms | long blooming, but people either love it or hate it, can spread fast if it's happy, good for clay |
| D, M, Ms | very compact, florific aster with prolific lavender flowers |
| D, M, Ms | when full grown, is leggy-looking – can be trimmed to 6" in June for bushier growth, plant something in front |
| D, M, Ms | is leggy-looking – can be trimmed to 6" in June for bushier growth (plant something in front) good for drawing beneficial (predatory) insects |
| D, M, Ms | more compact, florific version of the species w/ deep purple flowers, can be prone to fungus |

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| Scientific Name | Common Name | Bloom Color | Height | Bloom Time | Spacing (o.c.) | Resists Deer? | Native? | Size | Sun/ Shade |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|------------|----------------|---------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Sun to Part Sun continued | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Cornus sericea</i> | Red-twig Dogwood | White | 5-8' | May-June | 6' | | N | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Flaviramea' | Yellow-twig Dogwood | White | 5-8' | May-June | 4' | | C | 3 gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Blackgum | White | 30-60' | May-June | n/a | | N | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro Low' | Gro Low Fragrant Sumac | n/a | 2-3' | n/a | 3' | Y | C | #3 pot | Sn, P |
| <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | Elderberry | White | 5-10' | June-July | 5' | Y | N | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> 'Blue Muffin' | Blue Muffin Arrowwood Viburnum | White | 3-4' | May-June | 3' | Y | C | 3 gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> 'Chicago Lustre' | Chicago Lustre Arrowwood Viburnum | White | 5-7' | June | 4' | Y | C | gallon | Sn, P |
| <i>Viburnum lentago</i> | Nannyberry | White | 5-7' | June | 7' | Y | N | gallon | Sn, P |

Full Sun

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|--------|---|-----|------------------|----|
| <i>Baptisia australis</i> | Baptisia or False Indigo | Blue | 3-4' | June | 3' | | N | #2 pot | Sn |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | Rattlesnake Master | White/Lt. Green | 3' | July-Sept | 18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Helianthus grosseserratus</i> | Sawtooth Sunflower | Yellow | 4-12' | July-Oct | 24-36" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> | Rose Mallow | Pink | 4-6' | Aug-Sept | 32" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | Switch Grass | n/a | 4-6' | Aug-Sept | 3' | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Cloud Nine' | Cloud Nine Switch Grass | n/a | 5-7' | Aug-Sept | 3' | Y | C | 2 gal. or #2 pot | Sn |
| <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah' | Shenandoah Switch Grass | n/a | 3' | Aug-Sept | 2.5' | Y | C | gallon | Sn |
| <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> | Yellow Coneflower | Yellow | 4-6' | July-Oct | 15" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Sedum</i> 'Autumn Joy' | Autumn Joy Sedum | Magenta | 1.5-2' | July-Sept | 16" | | NFH | gallon | Sn |
| <i>Silphium laciniatum</i> | Compass Plant | Yellow | 4-7' | July-Aug | 24" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i> | Prairie Dock | Yellow | 8' (flower) | Aug | 18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Solidago riddellii</i> | Riddell's Goldenrod | Yellow | 2-3' | Aug-Sept | 18-24" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | Prairie Dropseed | n/a | 2' | Aug-Sept | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Verbena hastata</i> | Blue Vervain | Purple | 4-6' | June-Aug | 12" | | N | 2" pot | Sn |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Winterberry – Male | White | 4-6' | June-July | 3.5' | | C | 4 gallon | Sn |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Jim Dandy' | Winterberry – Male | White | 4-6' | June-July | 3.5' | | C | 4 gallon | Sn |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Nana Red Sprite' | Winterberry – Female | White | 2-3' | June-July | 2.5' | | C | 5 gallon | Sn |
| <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Goldfinger' | Goldfinger Potentilla | Yellow | 3-4' | June-July | 36" | Y | C | 7 gallon | Sn |

All Light Levels – These plants will thrive in any rain garden!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|--------|---|---|-------------|-----------|
| <i>Anemone canadensis</i> | Canada Anemone | White | 12-20" | May-July | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Carex muskingumensis</i> | Palm Sedge | n/a | 2-3' | June-Oct | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Carex stipata</i> | Common Fox Sedge | Green | 24" | May | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i> | Brown Fox Sedge | n/a | 2-3' | June-Oct | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> | Wild Strawberry | White | 6-12" | May-June | 18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | Wild Geranium | Lavender | 12-24" | May-June | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Iris virginica</i> | Blue Flag Iris | Lt. Blue/Lavender | 2-3' | May-June | 12-18" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | Blue Lobelia | Blue/Purple | 30" | July-Sept | 12" | Y | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> | Sensitive Fern | n/a | 12-24" | n/a | 12" | Y | N | gallon | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | Culver's Root | White | 4-6' | July-Aug | 12-18" | | N | 2" pot | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Red Bud | Pink | 25' | May | n/a | | N | 1 or 3 gal. | Sn, P, Sh |
| <i>Itea virginica</i> 'Henry's Garnet' | Sweetspire | White | 4' | May-June | 3' | | C | 6 gallon | Sn, P, Sh |



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Moisture Comments

| | |
|-------------|---|
| D, M, Ms, W | can get big, but has great red winter stem color (trim 1/3 each year to promote best red color), best with groundcover underneath |
| D, M, Ms, W | can get big, but has great chartreuse winter stem color, best with groundcover underneath |
| D, M, Ms, W | beautiful fall color |
| D, M | good woody edge plant – not especially showy, but a 'workhorse' with good fall color, good for clay, salt tolerant |
| D, M, Ms, W | takes a wide variety of conditions, a little loose in character, there are several cultivars out now worth exploring |
| D, M, Ms, W | nice smaller alternative to straight native Viburnum dentatum, neat and round, beautiful blue berries |
| D, M, Ms, W | a little larger than the previous, a very hardy plant |
| M, Ms, W | straight native, so a large shrub |
| D, M, Ms | good dramatic accent plant, really needs full sun, almost looks like a shrub, good for clay |
| D, M, Ms | dramatic form, not for the faint of heart |
| D, M, Ms | very tall, nice late season color, can be aggressive |
| M, Ms, W | huge pink flowers, shrub-like |
| D, M, Ms, W | as long as it has sun, this plant really performs, but can be too floppy for some (use cultivars below if want neater appearance), can re-seed assertively |
| D, M, Ms, W | tall, neat, dramatic – this is a great plant, takes a while to look like something in the spring, best with low groundcover around since spaced far apart, good for clay, salt tolerant |
| D, M, Ms, W | shorter switch grass, beautifully highlighted with wine tinged foliage, takes a while to look like something in the spring, best with low groundcover since spaced far apart, good for clay |
| D, M, Ms | tall, use with someone into the native look |
| D | only use at edge for sandy soils, good for neat aesthetics |
| D, M, Ms, W | tall, use with someone into the native look, can spread aggressively if happy, good for clay |
| D, M, Ms | short broad foliage is great contrast plant, flower stalk is airy and tall (sometimes needs staking), good for clay |
| Ms, W | nice good-looking foliage, looks like a garden plant. Pretty yellow flowers the same time as Asters and Boltonia. |
| D, M, Ms | a great performer, but takes a while to get going, beautiful fall texture, great for front edge of sunny garden, since it has neat winter presence |
| D, M, Ms | tall, nice deep color, best for native setting |
| M, Ms, W | needs acid soil (not clay!), makes it possible for companion female plant below to bloom and fruit |
| M, Ms, W | needs acid soil (not clay!), makes it possible for companion female plant below to bloom and fruit |
| M, Ms, W | needs acid soil (not clay!), amazing winter berries (needs male above – 1 male for every 5 females) |
| D, M, Ms | long blooming flowers, good, neat plant, may need hard pruning in a couple of years, good for clay, good for drawing beneficial (predatory) insects |
| M, Ms | groundcover, spreads quickly & fills in (can be aggressive – good for someone who doesn't want to weed), resents long periods of drought |
| M, Ms, W | good workhorse for all settings, provides nice texture if massed |
| D, M, Ms | provides nice texture if massed |
| D, M, Ms, W | good workhorse for all settings, provides nice texture if massed |
| D, M, Ms | edible, great groundcover for spreading in between plants that are spaced far, can spread into adjoining lawn (check with owner), nice fall color |
| D, M, Ms | neat native that clumps, stays small and keeps leaves throughout season, nice fall color |
| M, Ms, W | great clean and neat foliage, nice flower, really tough – an excellent workhorse |
| M, Ms | longer lived than sister cardinal flower, nice blue at end of the season, neat for native, good for drawing beneficial (predatory) insects |
| M, Ms, W | a short, neat fern for the sun, as long as not too dry, great combined with iris |
| D, M, Ms | nice bloom late in summer, can be aggressive if happy |
| D, M, Ms | great small native floodplain tree, can be susceptible to wind damage |
| M, Ms | beautiful fall color, but susceptible to winter kill, need to prune off winter dead in spring |