

Quick Guide to Native Plants for Rain Gardens

Rose mallow



Soft sedge



Culver's root



Joe pye weed



Red-osier dogwood



Foxglove beardtongue



New England aster



Turtlehead



Cardinal flower



Switchgrass



Marsh milkweed



Red chokeberry



Cinnamon fern



Blue flag iris



Goldenrod



Quick Guide to Native Plants for Rain Gardens: A Sampler

| | Common Name | Latin Name (Cultivars often available) | Light Preference | Moisture Preference | Height (in feet) | Bloom Color | Bloom Period | Notes |
|--------------------|--|--|------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|--------------|---|
| | Iris- blue flag, Virginia, copper, Louisiana hybrids | <i>Iris sp.</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 2-3 | variable | May-July | Sword-like leaves provide interest all season |
| | Cardinal flower | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | pt sun/shade | med-wet | 2-4 | red | July-Sept | Attracts hummingbirds; short-lived but may self-seed |
| | Culver's root | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 3-5 | white | June-Aug | Good for native bees; hardy and adaptable; nice cut flowers |
| PERENNIAL | Joe pye weed | <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 4-6 | purple | July-Sept | Excellent tall background plant; attracts swallowtail butterflies |
| | Marsh milkweed | <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 3-4 | pink | July-Aug | Hosts monarch and queen butterflies |
| | Goldenrod- showy, woodland, rough-leaved | <i>Solidago sp.</i> | variable | variable | 2-4 | yellow | June-Sept | Great for extended fall color. Goldenrod is not allergenic, despite its reputation! |
| | Turtlehead | <i>Chelone sp.</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 3-4 | white, pink | July-Sept | Larval food for Baltimore checkerspot butterfly |
| | Asters- New England, sky blue, wood, & others | <i>Aster sp.</i> | variable | variable | 2-3 | variable | July-Sept | Abundant blooms late summer into fall |
| | Foxglove beardtongue | <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> | full/pt sun | dry-med | 3-4 | white, pink | June-July | Tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and bees |
| SHRUB & SMALL TREE | Rose mallow | <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 5-7 | red, pink | May-Sept | Visited by hummingbirds and bees; very showy and hardy |
| | Chokeberry- red, black | <i>Aronia sp.</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 6-10 | white | Apr-May | Popular for landscaping with attractive berries and fall color |
| | Dogwood- gray, red, silky | <i>Cornus sp.</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 6-10 | white | May-June | Fruit is consumed by many species; very adaptable for most conditions |
| | Winterberry holly | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | full/pt sun | med-wet | 6-10 | white | June-July | Male and female plants needed for fruit production |
| FERNS | Sensitive, cinnamon, ostrich, & others | <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> <i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> | pt/full shade | med-wet | 2-5 | Non-flowering. Some have fertile and non-fertile fronds | | Great for shady rain gardens, though many will tolerate full sun if kept moist. |
| GRASS-LIKE | Switchgrass, bluestem, Northern sea oats, Indian, & others | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> | variable | variable | 4-6 | Green foliage and unique seed heads; many grasses have lovely fall color | | Many drought-tolerant and adaptable selections; some self-sow; great as landscape features |
| | Soft rush, fox sedge, tussock sedge, path rush & others | <i>Carex sp.</i> <i>Juncus sp.</i> | variable | variable | 1-2 | | | Good for texture, diversity, and will tolerate dry spells once established; insignificant but interesting flowers |

The Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (www.centralohioraingardens.org)

Our mission is to promote the benefits of rain gardens for community beautification and clean water. This mission fits well with our founder's (Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District) goals of improving water quality and providing solutions to water quantity issues. Our goal is to collect **1 billion gallons of storm water per year** through the use of rain gardens.

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