

a rain garden is just that - a garden!

It should be beautiful and have 4 seasons of interest. One problem commonly seen is that many gardens rely solely on perennials. This looks good in the summer, gets weedy looking in fall, and come winter, is often barren. A well-designed garden looks good in all seasons. To achieve this, incorporate a combination of woody plants (evergreen and deciduous) as well as perennials.

what to plant?

Plants in a rain garden need to be both drought tolerant and able to withstand short periods of flooding. The plants may not flower and grow as much during times of water stress, but don't fret because they'll flower again and resume growing when the stress is removed. Rain garden plants are more than just tough, they absorb water and nutrients, removing pollutants before they end up in our water supplies. And, they add beauty to our landscapes with their flowers and foliage.

Sun vs. shade?

When locating your rain garden, take note of the surrounding light conditions. Does the area stay in full sun or shade? Does it receive a bit of both? This will help determine which type plant you will need. A sun garden receives at least 6 hours of sunlight per day, while a shade garden receives practically none. Many plants will do well in between these two ends of the continuum. We list the plants as Sun, Part sun, Shade, or a range between these three.

Native vs. non-native?

There are reasons for both.

- Avoid invasive, colonizing or thicketing plants, whether native or non-native.
- Natives are preferable for if wildlife habitat is a goal.
- Our developed landscapes may not meet the soil and temperature needs of some natives.



the plants:

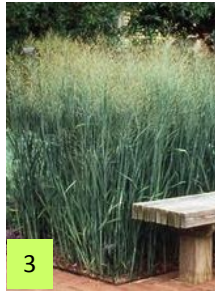
The plants on the following pages are just a sampling of rain garden plants. Please use the resources section to locate hundreds and thousands more plants, many of which have multiple varieties. A **deciduous** plant will lose its leaves in the winter, while an **evergreen** plant will hold its leaves throughout the year. **Perennials** will usually die back to the ground during the winter, but will come back in the spring. The non native plants are underlined. **Dimensions are given as height x width**, (height alone for groundcovers and vines.)



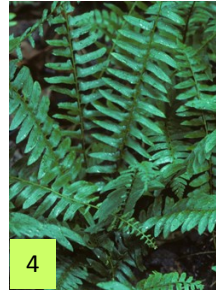
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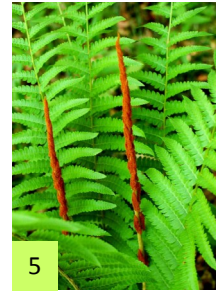
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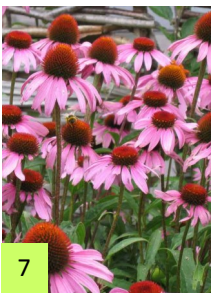
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perennials

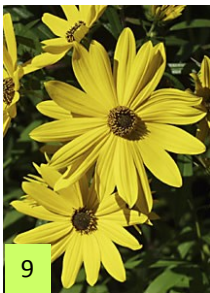
1. River Oats ♦ *Chasmanthium latifolium* ♦ **Sun to Shade** ♦ Perennial Grass (winter interest) ♦ 3' x 2'
2. Muhly Grass ♦ *Muhlenbergia capillaris* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial Grass (winter interest) ♦ 3' x 3'
3. Switch Grass ♦ *Panicum virgatum* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial Grass (winter interest) ♦ 3' x 2'
4. Christmas fern ♦ *Polystichum acrostichoides* ♦ **Part sun to Shade** ♦ semi-evergreen (winter interest) ♦ 2' x 2'
5. Cinnamon Fern ♦ *Osmunda cinnamomea* ♦ **Part sun to Shade** ♦ Perennial ♦ 3' x 3'
6. Carolina Phlox ♦ *Phlox Carolina* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 36" x 18"
7. Coneflower ♦ *Echinacea purpurea* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 2-3' x 2' (in many colors)
8. Black-eyed Susan ♦ *Rudbeckia fulgida* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 18-30"x2 (also other species of varying heights)
9. Narrow-leaved Sunflower ♦ *Helianthus angustifolius* ♦ **Sun** ♦ perennial ♦ 4-8' x 3-4'
10. Rose Mallow ♦ *Hibiscus moscheutos* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 3' x 4' (also 6' tall *H. coccineus*)
11. Siberian Iris ♦ *Iris sibirica* ♦ **Sun to Part Sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 2-3' x 1'
12. Milkweed ♦ *Asclepia tuberosa* ♦ **Sun** ♦ Perennial ♦ 2-3' x 2'



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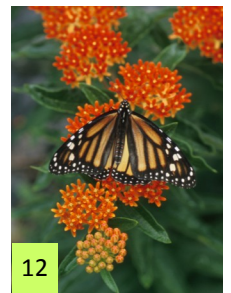
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resources:

USFWS: Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and conservation Landscaping

NCSU Cooperative Extension: Landscaping for Wildlife with Native Plants

NCSU Cooperative Extension rain garden plants - www.bae.ncsu.edu/topic/raingarden



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shrubs - deciduous

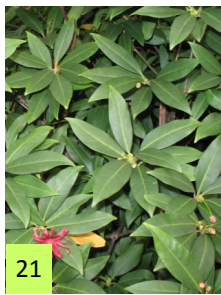
- 13. American Beautyberry ♦ *Callicarpa americana* ♦ **Sun to Shade** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 8' x 6'
- 14. Sweet Betsy ♦ *Calycanthus floridus* ♦ **Sun to Shade** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 8' x 10'
- 15. Summersweet Clethra ♦ *Clethra alnifolia* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 8' x 6'
- 16. Smooth Hydrangea 'Annabelle' ♦ *Hydrangea arborescens* ♦ **Part sun to Shade** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 5' x 6'
- 17. Oakleaf Hydrangea ♦ *Hydrangea quercifolia* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 10' x 12'
- 18. Virginia Sweetspire ♦ *Itea virginica* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Deciduous ♦ 6' x 7'
- 19. Yaupon Holly ♦ *Ilex vomitoria* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Evergreen ♦ 10-15' x 8-10'
- 20. Inkberry Holly ♦ *Ilex Glabra* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Evergreen ♦ 5' x 5'
- 21. Anise ♦ *Illicium floridanum* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Evergreen ♦ 10' x 8'
- 22. Southern Wax Myrtle ♦ *Myrica cerifera* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Evergreen ♦ 10-15' x 10-15'
- 23. Abelia ♦ *Abelia grandiflora* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Semi-evergreen ♦ 3-6' x 3-6'
- 24. Doghobble ♦ *Leucothoe axillaris* ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Evergreen ♦ 2-4' x 3-5'



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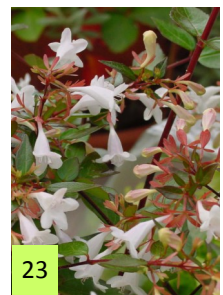
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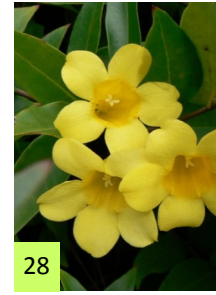
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shrubs - evergreen

resources:

Use an online image search engine like Google or Bing to find pictures of many different species cultivars.

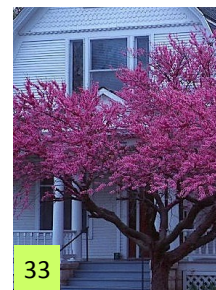
Find more information at University Extension sites such as [NCSU Plant Fact Sheets - <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets>] or [Clemson Cooperative Extension Landscape Plants - www.clemson.edu/extension] and at [USDA Plant Profiles - <http://plants.usda.gov>]



groundcovers

vines

25. Periwinkle ♦ Vinca minor ♦ **Part Sun to Shade** ♦ Groundcover ♦ Evergreen ♦ 4-6" tall
26. Bugleweed ♦ Ajuga reptans ♦ **Sun to Shade** ♦ Groundcover ♦ Evergreen ♦ 3-6" tall
27. Dwarf crested iris ♦ Iris cristata ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Groundcover ♦ Deciduous ♦ 6" tall
28. Carolina Jessamine ♦ Gelsemium sempervirens ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Vine ♦ Evergreen 10-20'
29. Trumpet Honeysuckle ♦ Lonicera sempervirens ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Vine ♦ semi Evergreen ♦ 15-25'
30. Sweetbay ♦ Magnolia virginiana ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Tree ♦ Evergreen ♦ 60' x 30'
31. Bald Cypress ♦ Taxodium distichum ♦ **Sun** ♦ Tree ♦ Deciduous ♦ 70' x 40'
32. Fringe tree ♦ Chionanthus virginicus ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Tree ♦ Deciduous ♦ 20-30' x 20'
33. Red bud ♦ Cercis canadensis ♦ **Sun to Part sun** ♦ Tree ♦ Deciduous ♦ 20-35' x 30'



trees

Room for trees: If you have room to plan for a tree in your garden's future, you can plant it now and let it take the place of a shrub until it matures. Many trees will do great in a rain garden. You can plant perennials and shrubs with it and plan to remove them in the future. Like the many colors and sizes of perennials, some trees have been bred to grow smaller than their wild cousins.

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