



Recommended Plants for Downspout Planters and Rain Gardens

Native, or non-invasive, drought-tolerant perennials are recommended for downspout planters and rain gardens. These species will be able to tolerate the moisture conditions of these stormwater tools and are also appropriate for managing stormwater runoff. Ask your local garden center if they have plants on this list or other similar species.

Downspout Planters

*Species marked with an asterisk are the most resilient and will require the least maintenance.

Partial Shade to Full Shade Perennials

Flowering Perennials

- *Aruncus aethusifolia* – Miniature Goat’s Beard
- **Aster divaricatus* – ‘Eastern Star’ White Wood Aster
- *Chelone glabra* – ‘Turtlehead’
- *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae* – ‘Mrs. Robb’s Bonnet’ Wood Spurge
- **Pycnanthemum muticum* – ‘Mountain Mint’
- *Hemerocallis* cv. – Day Lily cultivar
- *Heuchera villosa* – *Heuchera* ‘Autumn Bride’
- **Lobelia cardinalis* – ‘Cardinal Flower’
- **Lobelia siphilitica* – ‘Big Blue Lobelia’
- *Tricyrtis* ‘Sinonome’ – ‘Sinonome’ Toadlily

Grass Species

- *Carex flacca* – *Carex* ‘Blue Zinger’
- *Carex appalachica* – Appalachian Sedge Grass
- *Carex* ‘Bunny Blue’ – Glaucous Woodland Sedge Grass
- *Carex muskingumensis* – ‘Oehme’ Variegated Palm Sedge Grass
- **Chasmanthium latifolium* – ‘Northern Sea Oats’
- *Sesleria autumnalis* – ‘Autumn Moor Grass’
- **Veronicastrum virginica* – ‘Culver Root’

Full Sun to Partial Sun

Flowering Perennials

- *Aster oblongifolius – ‘Raydon’s Favorite’ New England Aster
- Aster laevis - ‘Bluebird’ Smooth Aster
- *Agastache foeniculum – ‘Anise Hyssop’ (several varieties)
- Calamintha nepata – ‘White Cloud’ Calamint
- Chelone lyonii – ‘Hot Lips’ Turtlehead
- *Pycnanthemum muticum – ‘Mountain Mint’
- Eupatorium dubium - ‘Little Joe’ Joe Pye Weed
- Filipendula rubra – ‘Venusta’ Queen of the Prairie
- Helenium – ‘Sneezeweed’ (several varieties)
- Hibiscus moscheutos- ‘Fantasia’, ‘Kopper King’, ‘Robert Fleming’, ‘Plum Crazy’ Common Mallow
- Iris ensata – Japanese Iris (several varieties)
- Iris versicolor – ‘Blue Flag’ Iris
- Iris sibirica – Siberian Iris (several varieties)
- *Liatris spicata – ‘Kobold’ Gayfeather
- *Lobelia cardinalis – ‘Cardinal Flower’
- *Lobelia siphilitica – ‘Big Blue Lobelia’
- Salvia nemerosa cv. – Hybrid Sage (several varieties)
- Sedum ‘Autumn Fire’ – ‘Autumn Fire’ Stonecrop
- *Solidago rugosa – ‘Fireworks’ Rough Stemmed Goldenrod
- *Solidago - ‘Little Lemon’ Goldenrod
- *Solidago sphacelata – ‘Golden Fleece’ Goldenrod
- *Vernonia lettermannii – ‘Iron Butterfly’ Narrowleaf Ironweed

Grass Species

- Bouteloua gracilis – ‘Blonde Ambition’ Blue Grama Grass
- Carex testacea – ‘Praire Fire’ Orange New Zealand Sedge Grass’
- *Juncus effuses – Common Rush Grass
- *Schizachyrium scoparium cv. – Little Bluestem Grass (several varieties)
- *Panicum virgatum – ‘Ruby Ribbons’ Red Switchgrass
- *Panicum virgatum – ‘Shenendoah’ Switchgrass
- *Sporobolus heterolepis – Prairie Dropseed Grass

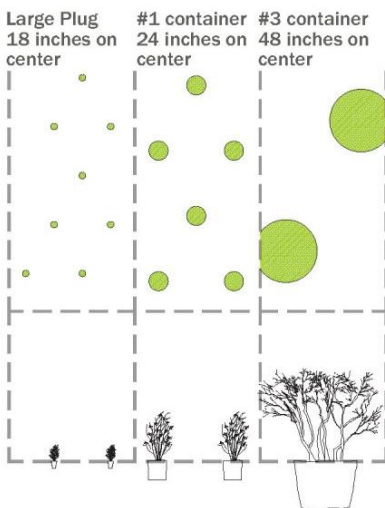
Rain Gardens

There are many plants that make for successful rain gardens. The plants listed below have been selected because they can be planted at lower densities and grow quickly, resulting in a rain garden that is lush and full while using fewer plants.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Moisture Preference	Sun/Shade Preference	Height	Width	Recommended Plug Plant Spacing	Planting Area in Rain Garden
Herbaceous Perennials:							
<i>Acorus americanus</i>	Sweetflag	Moist to Wet	Sun	2-3'	12"	12"	Wettest Area
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Mallow	Moist to Wet	Sun	3-6'	24"	24"	Wettest Area
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	2-3'	36"	12"	Wettest Area
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	2-4'	24"	12"	Wettest Area
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkey Flower	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	1-3'	18"	12"	Wettest Area
<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>	New York Ironweed	Moist to Wet	Sun	4-6'	36"	18"	Wettest Area
<i>Eupatorium dubium</i> 'Little Joe'	Dwarf Joe Pye Weed	Moist to Wet	Sun	3-4'	24"	24"	Wettest Area
<i>Helenium</i> sp.	Sneezeweed	Moist to Wet	Sun	18-40"	18"	18"	Perimeter
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	Moist to Dry	Sun	1-2'	30"	12"	Perimeter
<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	Sunflower	Average to Dry	Sun	4-6'	30"	24"	Outermost Edge
<i>Vernonia glauca</i>	Upland Ironweed	Average to Dry	Sun	3-5'	36"	12"	Outermost Edge
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i>	Thread-leaf Blue Star	Average to Dry	Sun to Partial Shade	2-3'	30"	18"	Outermost Edge
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Love Grass	Average to Dry	Sun	24"	30"	12"	Outermost Edge
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	Average to Dry	Sun to Partial Shade	2-3'	18"-24"	12"	Outermost Edge
Shrubs:							
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	4'-10'	3'-6'		Wettest Area
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	Moist to Wet	Sun to Shade	5'-10'	5'-10'		Wettest Area
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	4'-8'	4'-8'		Wettest Area
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	Dwarf Winterberry Holly	Moist to Wet	Sun to Partial Shade	2'-3'	2'		Wettest Area
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry Holly	Average	Sun to Shade	5'-8'	5'-8'		Perimeter
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier Dogwood	Average	Sun	4'-8'	4'-8'		Perimeter
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Pepperbush	Average	Sun to Shade	4'-6'	5'-8'		Perimeter
<i>Itea virginica</i>	Virginia Sweetspire	Average	Sun to Shade	4'-8'	4'-8'		Perimeter
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Cranberry	Average to Dry	Partial Shade to Shade	4'-8'	4'-8'		Outermost Edge
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	Average to Dry	Sun to Partial Shade	3'	3'-5'		Outermost Edge
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro Low'	Dwarf Aromatic Sumac	Average to Dry	Sun	2'-4'	3'-8'		Outermost Edge
Trees:							
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	Moist to Wet		30'-60'	15'-40'		Wettest Area
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp Oak	Moist to Wet		40'-80'	30'-60'		Wettest Area
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	Moist to Wet		40'-80'	30'-80'		Wettest Area
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	Moist to Wet		40'-80'	20'-30'		Wettest Area
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	Average		30'-60'	30'-60'		Perimeter
<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.	Serviceberry	Average		15'-25'	20'-30'		Perimeter
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringtree	Average		15-30'	15-30'		Perimeter
<i>Halesia carolina</i>	Carolina Silverbell	Average to Dry		15-25'	15-25'		Outermost Edge
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	Average to Dry		15'-30'	15'-30'		Outermost Edge

PLANT SPACING LAYOUT

Spacing for fast growing & wide spreading plants

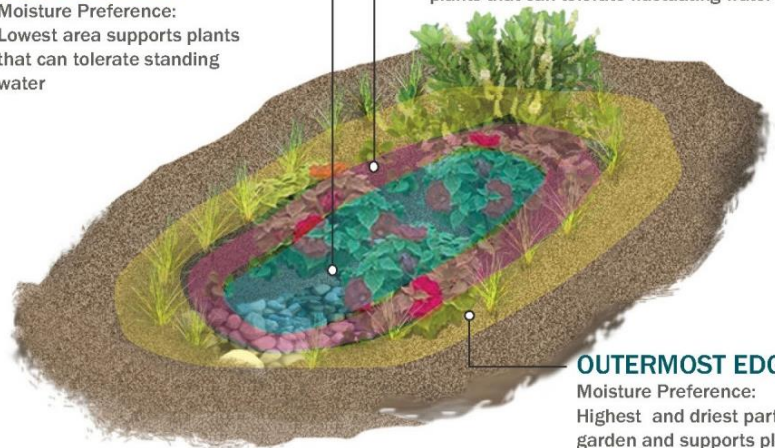


WETTEST AREA

Moisture Preference:
Lowest area supports plants that can tolerate standing water

PERIMETER

Moisture Preference:
Slightly drier than the wettest area. Supports plants that can tolerate fluctuating water levels.



OUTERMOST EDGE

Moisture Preference:
Highest and driest part of the rain garden and supports plants that tolerate drier conditions.