

# Rain Garden Plants –L.R.C.A.

Rain gardens are gardens that are planted where rainwater is purposely channeled into the site. Depending on the slope and amount of rain that can move into the garden, there may be standing water at all times or only after a significant rainfall. This list includes plants for the lowest part of the rain garden in shallow water or wet soils, to the upland or dry portion of the rain garden.

Compiled by Sally Hausken, Becker Co. Master Gardener, and Gregg Thompson, Metro Soil & Water District. Minnesota

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Moisture*	Exposure**	Native Habitat	Fl Color	Bloom Time
<b>Aquatic Plants: grown in less than 12" of water, soil is always saturated</b>							
<i>Carex comosa</i>	<a href="#">bottlebrush sedge</a>	24-42"	s,w,um	S	marsh, peatland, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex crinita</i>	<a href="#">fringed sedge</a>	30-42"	s,w,um	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex lacustris</i>	<a href="#">lake sedge</a>	24-36"	s,w,um	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex stricta</i>	<a href="#">tussock sedge</a>	24-36"	s,w,um	S	swamp, marsh, peatland	green	May-June
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	<a href="#">spike rush</a>	6-24"	s,w,um	S	wetland, wet prairie	brown	August
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	<a href="#">blue flag iris</a>	24-36"	s,w	S, PS	marsh, peatland, lake edge	blue	June-July
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	<a href="#">soft rush</a>	24-48"	s,w,um	S	swamp, marsh, lake edge	brown	July-Aug
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	<a href="#">common arrowhead</a>	24-42"	s,w	S, PS	lake edge, marsh	white	July-Aug
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	<a href="#">hardstem bulrush</a>	36-108"	s,w	S	lake edge, marsh	green	June-July
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<a href="#">softstem bulrush</a>	36-108"	s,w	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	brown	July-Aug
<b>Non-Aquatic Plants: Wildflowers or Forbs</b>							
<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	<a href="#">fragrant hyssop</a>	24-40"	um,ud	PS	prairie, savanna	blue	June-Oct
<i>Allium stellatum</i>	<a href="#">prairie wild onion</a>	12-24"	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna	pink	July-Aug
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	<a href="#">pearly everlasting</a>	6-18"	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna, woodland	white	July-Sept
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	<a href="#">Canada anemone</a>	12-24"	w,um	PS, Sh	prairie, marsh, swamp	white	May-July
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	<a href="#">jack-in-the-pulpit</a>	8-24"	w,um	PS, Sh	woodland, forest	green	April-June
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	<a href="#">swamp milkweed</a>	36-48"	w,um	S	prairie, marsh, lake edge	lavender	June-Aug
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	<a href="#">butterfly flower</a>	12-24"	ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna	orange	June-Sept
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	<a href="#">New England aster</a>	24-48"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, marsh, swamp	blue	Aug-Oct
<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	<a href="#">boltonia</a>	48-96"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, marsh, swamp	white	Aug-Sept
<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	<a href="#">purple prairie clover</a>	12-24"	ud	S	dry prairie, savanna	purple	June-July
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	<a href="#">purple coneflower</a>	24-36"	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna	purple	July-Aug
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	<a href="#">Joe-Pye weed</a>	24-48"	w,um	S, PS	wet prairie, marsh, swamp	purple	July-Sept
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	<a href="#">bottle gentian</a>	18-30"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, marsh, lake edge	blue	Aug-Oct
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	<a href="#">prairie smoke</a>	6-12"	um,ud	S	dry prairie, woodland	purple	April-June

# Rain Garden Plants

This newly installed rain garden is a joint effort of Carpenter Nature Center, Washington Co. Master Gardeners, Washington Conservation District, Dakota Co. Board of Commissioners, and volunteers who did the planting. The garden is adjacent to the new visitor center at Carpenter Nature Center.



Runoff from the parking lots at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is channeled into these rain garden planting beds and supports a wide variety of plants.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Moisture*	Exposure**	Native Habitat	Fl Color	Bloom Time
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	<a href="#">Maximilian sunflower</a>	24-108"	w,um	S	swamp, prairie, lake edge	yellow	Aug-Oct
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	<a href="#">prairie blazing star</a>	24-36"	w,um	S	prairie, marsh, lake edge	purple	July-Sept
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	<a href="#">cardinal flower</a>	24-48"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, marsh, lake edge	red	July-Oct
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	<a href="#">great blue lobelia</a>	20-30"	w,um	S	prairie, marsh, lake edge	blue	July-Oct
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	<a href="#">wild bergamot</a>	24-48"	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna, woodland	lavender	July-Aug
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	<a href="#">black-eyed Susan</a>	3-4'	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna	yellow	June-Oct
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	<a href="#">wild goldenglow</a>	36-108"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, swamp, lake edge	yellow	July-Aug
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	<a href="#">tall meadow rue</a>	36-72"	w	S, PS	prairie, swamp, lake edge	cream	June
<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>	<a href="#">large-flowered bellwort</a>	12"	um	PS	deciduous forest	yellow	May
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	<a href="#">blue vervain</a>	24-60"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, marsh, swamp	blue	June-Sept
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	<a href="#">golden Alexander</a>	12-36"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, savanna, woodland	yellow	May-July
<b>Graminoides (grasses and grass-like plants)</b>							
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	<a href="#">sweet flag</a>	36"	s,w	S, PS	marsh, peatland, lake edge	yellow	July-Aug
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	<a href="#">big bluestem</a>	36-72"	um,ud	S, PS	prairie, savanna, woodland	purple	July-Sept
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	<a href="#">side oats grama</a>	1-2'	um,ud	S	prairie, savanna, woodland	red	July-Sept
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	<a href="#">blue grama</a>	6-18"	um,ud	S	prairie, savanna	purple	July-Sept
<i>Bromus kalmii</i>	<a href="#">Kalm's brome</a>	24-36"	w,um,ud	PS, Sh	prairie, savanna, woodland	green	June-July
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	<a href="#">bluejoint grass</a>	36-72"	w,um	S, PS, Sh	prairie, marsh, swamp	green	July-Sept
<i>Carex bebbii</i>	<a href="#">Bebb's sedge</a>	24-36"	w,um	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex comosa</i>	<a href="#">bottlebrush sedge</a>	24-42"	s,w,um	S	marsh, peatland, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex lacustris</i>	<a href="#">lake sedge</a>	24-36"	s,w,um	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania sedge</a>	6-8"	um,ud	S, Sh	dry to mesic forest	brown	May
<i>Carex scoparia</i>	<a href="#">pointed broom sedge</a>	6-30"	w	S	marsh, wetland, lake edge	tan	May-June

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<b>Graminoides (grasses and grass-like plants), continued</b>							
<i>Carex sprengelii</i>	<a href="#">Sprengel's sedge</a>	12-24"	um,ud	S	woodland, forest	green	June-July
<i>Carex stricta</i>	<a href="#">tussock sedge</a>	24-36"	s,w,um	S	swamp, marsh, peatland	green	May-June
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	<a href="#">fox sedge</a>	12-36"	w,um	S	swamp, marsh, lake edge	green	May-June
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	<a href="#">spike rush</a>	6-24"	s,w,um	S	wetland, wet prairie	brown	Aug
<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	<a href="#">bottlebrush grass</a>	24-48"	w,um,ud	PS, Sh	forest, woodland, lake edge	green	June-July
<i>Glyceria canadensis</i>	<a href="#">rattlesnake manna grass</a>	24-36"	w	S	marsh, peatland, lake edge	green	July-Aug
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	<a href="#">tall manna grass</a>	36-60"	w	S	swamp, peatland, lake edge	green	July-Aug
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	<a href="#">sweet grass</a>	12-24"	w,um	S	lake edge, marsh, prairie	green	May-June
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	<a href="#">soft rush</a>	24-48"	s,w,um	S	swamp, marsh, lake edge	brown	July-Aug
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	<a href="#">path rush</a>	6-12"	w,um	S, PS, Sh	swamp, marsh, lake edge	brown	July-Aug
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	<a href="#">June grass</a>	12-24"	um,ud	S	prairie, savanna, woodland	green	June-July
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	<a href="#">switchgrass</a>	36-72"	w,um,ud	S	prairie, swamp, lake edge	purple	June-Oct
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	<a href="#">little bluestem</a>	24-48"	um,ud	S	prairie, savanna, woodland	amber	July-Sept
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	<a href="#">green bulrush</a>	36-48"	w	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	brown	June-July
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	<a href="#">wool grass</a>	36-48"	s,w,um	S	marsh, swamp, lake edge	brown	June-July
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	<a href="#">softstem bulrush</a>	36-96"	s	S	lake edge, marsh	brown	June-Aug
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	<a href="#">Indian grass</a>	24-72"	w,um	S, PS	prairie, savanna, woodland	amber	July-Sept
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	<a href="#">cord grass</a>	36-72"	w,um	S	prairie, marsh, lake edge	yellow	Aug-Oct
<b>Shrubs and Small Trees</b>							
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	<a href="#">serviceberry</a>	15-25'	um,ud	PS	forests, fields, clearcuts	white	April-May
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	<a href="#">black chokeberry</a>	3-6'	w,um,ud	S, PS	lake edge, forest, swamp	white	May-June
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	<a href="#">pagoda dogwood</a>	15-25'	um,ud	PS	forest, swamp	white	May-July
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	<a href="#">gray dogwood</a>	5-15'	um,ud	PS, Sh	forest, fields, lake edge	white	May-July
<i>Cornus sericea (stolonifera)</i>	<a href="#">red-osier dogwood</a>	6-12'	w,um,ud	S, PS, Sh	forest, wetland, lake edge	white	May-July
<i>Corylus americana</i>	<a href="#">American hazel</a>	8-15'	um,ud	S	forest, wetland, lake edge	purple	March-April
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	<a href="#">bush honeysuckle</a>	2-4'	um,ud	PS, Sh	woodland, forest, clearcuts	yellow	June-July
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	<a href="#">chokecherry</a>	20-30'	um,ud	S, PS	forest, woodland	white	May
<i>Sambucus pubens</i>	<a href="#">red berried elderberry</a>	4-8'	um,ud	PS, S, Sh	dry to moist forest	white	May
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	<a href="#">snowberry</a>	4-6'	ud	S	forest, woodland	whitish	May-July
<i>Viburnum atropurpurea</i>	<a href="#">downy arrowwood</a>	6'	ud	S, PS	woodland, forest, clearcuts	white	May-June
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	<a href="#">nannyberry</a>	12-18'	um,ud	PS	forest, swamp, lake edge	white	May-June
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	<a href="#">highbush cranberry</a>	5-15'	w,um	S, PS	forest, swamp, lake edge	white	June

\* **Moisture Zone Key:** ud = upland-dry (dry, well-drained soils); um = upland-mesic (soil is moist, but not wet); w = soil is wet, occasionally standing water; s = shallow water most of the time

\*\* **Exposure Key:** S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade

# Rain Garden Plants

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**Trees**

\* **Moisture Zone Key:** *ud = upland-dry (dry, well-drained soils); um = upland-mesic (soil is moist, but not wet); w = soil is wet, occasionally standing water; s = shallow water most of the time*

\*\* **Exposure Key:** *S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade*