

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a rain garden?

Rain gardens capture stormwater runoff from rooftops or paved surfaces such as driveways or parking lots. The water is then held temporarily in the rain garden where it filters through the soil and the plants to improve water quality and to reduce flashy runoff.

Why use native plants?

Native plants are those that are naturally occurring presently or historically in a particular ecosystem. The use of plants native to Ohio in local rain gardens is recommended because these plants grow well in our soils and climate and have deep root systems to help filter water captured by rain gardens.

Where should a rain garden go?



Example of a front-yard rain garden.



Example of a back-yard rain garden.



Example of a patio or back-deck rain garden.

Sources:

<http://www.enature.com/home/>

http://www.ohioprairienursery.com/documents/neo_raingarden_manual1.pdf

<http://www.millcreekwatershed.org/rain-gardens/rain-garden-plants.html>

<http://www.wildflowerinformation.org>

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Warren County

Warren County
Soil and Water
Conservation District

Native Plant Species for Ohio Rain Gardens



Arrowhead, New England Aster, Purple Coneflower

Warren County, Ohio

Suggested Rain Garden Plants for Ohio

Soil moisture preferences: D = dry, M = medium, W = wet

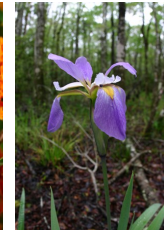
Common Name / Botanical Name

- Arrowhead / *Sagittaria latifolia*** (W)
prefers full to partial sun and blooms white
- Blazing Star / *Liatris spicata*** (M)
prefers sun and blooms purple-pink
- Blueberries / *Vaccinium* sp.** (M-D)
prefers full to part sun and has red fall foliage
- Blue Flag Iris / *Iris versicolor*** (W)
prefers sun and blooms blue
- Brown Eyed Susan / *Rudbeckia trilob*** (M)
prefers full to partial sun and blooms yellow
- Butterflyweed / *Asclepias tuberosa*** (D)
prefers full to part sun and blooms orange
- Columbine / *Aquilegia canadensis*** (M)
prefers shade and blooms scarlet or yellow
- Cup Plant / *Silphium perfoliatum*** (M)
prefers full to part sun and blooms yellow
- Forget-me-not / *Myosotis sylvatica*** (W)
prefers full sun to partial shade and blooms blue
- Great Blue Lobelia / *Lobelia siphilitica*** (W)
prefers full to part sun and blooms blue
- Joe-Pye Weed / *Eupatorium purpureum*** (D)
prefers sun and blooms rose to pink
- Little Bluestem / *Schizachyrium scoparium*** (grass) (D)
prefers full sun and blooms yellow to red
- Mountain-laurel / *Kalmia latifolia*** (M)
prefers partial to full sun, evergreen shrub with pink flower clusters
- Nannyberry / *Viburnum lentago*** (M)
prefers full sun, small deciduous shrub with small white flowers and blue-black fruit
- New England Aster / *Aster novae-anglia*** (W)
prefers sun and blooms pink or purplish

- Ohio Spiderwort / *Tradescantia ohioensis*** (M) prefers partial shade and blooms blue-violet
- Prairie Cord Grass / *Spartina pectinata*** (W)
prefers full sun and blooms green or gold
- Prairie Dock / *Silphium terebinthinaceum*** (D)
prefers full to part sun and blooms yellow
- Purple Coneflower / *Echinacea purpurea*** (D)
prefers full to part sun and blooms purple
- Red Twig Dogwood / *Cornus sericia*** (D-W)
deciduous shrub with small white flowers
- Royal Catchfly / *Silene regia*** (D)
prefers full to part sun and blooms red
- Shasta Daisy / *Chrysanthemum maximum*** (M)
prefers full sun and blooms white
- Shining Sumac / *Rhus copallinum*** (D)
prefers full sun, deciduous shrub with clusters of dark red fruit
- Sneezeweed / *Helenium autumnale*** (W)
prefers full to partial sun and blooms yellow
- Smooth Aster / *Aster laevis*** (D)
prefers sun and blooms blue
- Stalk-Grain Sedge / *Carex stipata*** (W)
prefers sun to light shade and blooms green
- Swamp Milkweed / *Asclepias incarnata*** (W)
prefers sun and blooms red-pink
- Sweet Black Eyed Susan / *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*** (M)
prefers full to part sun and blooms yellow
- White Turtlehead / *Chelone glabra*** (W)
prefers sun and blooms white to purple
- Wild Bergamot / *Monarda fistulosa*** (D)
prefers full to part sun and blooms lavender
- Wild Geranium / *Geranium maculatum*** (M)
prefers full shade to partial sun and blooms pink



Butterflyweed



Blue Flag Iris



Nannyberry



White Turtlehead



Little Bluestem



Sweet Black Eyed Susan



Stalk Grain Sedge



Ohio Spiderwort



Blazing Star



Forget-me-not



Swamp Milkweed



Royal Catchfly



Shasta Daisy



Smooth Aster