

## Suggested Planting list for Rain Gardens in the City of Madison and Surrounding Areas

Common Name	Scientific name	Ht.	Bloom	Color
<i>Dry-mesic soil, sunny</i>				
Lead Plant	<u><i>Amorpha canescens</i></u>	1-3'	June – Aug.	Dusty purple
Big Bluestem*	<u><i>Andropogon gerardii</i></u>	4-7'	Aug - Nov	Purple & Green
Butterfly Weed*	<u><i>Asclepias tuberosa</i></u>	1-3'	July – Sept	Orange
Sky Blue Aster*	<u><i>Aster azureus</i></u>	6-24"	Aug – Oct	Azure
Heath Aster	<u><i>Aster ericoides</i></u>	1-3'	Aug – Oct	White
Canada Milk Vetch	<u><i>Astragalus canadensis</i></u>	1-4'	June – Aug	Yellow
Side-oats Grama Grass	<u><i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i></u>	1-3'	Aug – Oct	Purple & Gold
Tall Bellflower	<u><i>Campanula americana</i></u>	4-6'	July - Aug	Blue purple
Gayfeather	<u><i>Liatris pycnostachya</i></u>	2-4'	Aug – Dec	Purple
Bee Balm/Bergamot *	<u><i>Monarda fistulosa</i></u>	2-4'	July - Aug	Lavender Pink
Bearded Foxglove	<u><i>Penstemon digitalis</i></u>	3-5'	April – June	White
Black Eyed Susan	<u><i>Rudbeckia hirta</i></u>	1-3'	June – Aug	Yellow & Brown
Sweet Black Eyed Susan*	<u><i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i></u>	3-5'	June – Aug	Yellow & Brown
Brown Eyed Susan	<u><i>Rudbeckia triloba</i></u>	1-4'	July – Oct	Yellow & Brown
Little Bluestem	<u><i>Schizachyrium scoparius</i></u>	1-3'	Aug – Oct	Rust & Green
Rosinweed	<u><i>Silphium integrifolium</i></u>	3-6'	July – Aug	Yellow
Compass Plant	<u><i>Silphium laciniatum</i></u>	5-9'	July – Sept	Yellow
Cup Plant*	<u><i>Silphium perfoliatum</i></u>	4-8'	July – Sept	Yellow
Spiderwort	<u><i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i></u>	1-4'	April – July	Blue
Common Ironweed*	<u><i>Vernonia fasciculata</i></u>	3-5'	July – Sept	Royal Purple
<i>Dry-Mesic Soil (Shady)</i>				
Wild Columbine	<u><i>Aquilegia canadensis</i></u>	1-3'	May – June	Red & Yellow
Calico Aster	<u><i>Aster lateriflorus</i></u>	1-5'	Aug – Oct.	White
Big Leaf Aster	<u><i>Aster macrophyllus</i></u>	2-4'	Sept. – Oct	Violet pale purple
Short's Aster	<u><i>Aster shortii</i></u>	2-3 ½'	Aug – Oct.	Lavender/pale blue violet
Wild Geranium	<u><i>Geranium maculatum</i></u>	1 ½ -2'	April – May	Pale to deep pink
Bottlebrush Grass	<u><i>Hystrix patula</i></u>	3-4'	June – Sept	Green to straw in fall
Jacob's Ladder	<u><i>Polemonium reptans</i></u>	8-18"	April – May	White
Zigzag Goldenrod	<u><i>Solidago flexicaulis</i></u>	1-3'	July – Oct.	Yellow

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<i>Wet-Mesic Soil (Sunny)</i>				
Sweet Flag*	<u><i>Acorus calamus</i></u>	1-4'	May – Aug	Yellow & green
Giant Hyssop*	<u><i>Agastache foeniculum</i></u>	3-5'	June – Oct.	Purple
Canada Anemone*	<u><i>Anemone canadensis</i></u>	1-2'	April – June	White
(red)Marsh Milkweed*	<u><i>Asclepias incarnata</i></u>	2-8'	July – Aug	Magenta
New England Aster*	<u><i>Aster novae-angliae</i></u>	1-4'	Aug – Oct	Purple & Orange
Bluejoint Grass*	<u><i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i></u>	2-4'	??	Blue green
White Turtlehead	<u><i>Chelone glabra</i></u>	1-3'	July – Sept	White
Canada Tick-trefoil	<u><i>Desmodium canadense</i></u>	2-6'	July – Aug	Pink
Joe Pye Weed	<u><i>Eupatorium maculatum</i></u>	4-6'	July – Sept.	Magenta
Boneset	<u><i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i></u>	2-4'	July – Oct.	White
Fowl Manna Grass	<u><i>Glyceria striata</i></u>	2-3'	July – Aug	Grass green
Dogtooth*	<u><i>Helenium autumnale</i></u>	3-5'	Aug – Oct.	Yellow
Ox Eye Sunflower	<u><i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i></u>	3-6'	June – Aug	Yellow
Rice Cutgrass	<u><i>Leersia oryzoides</i></u>	2-5'	June – Oct.	Green white
Prairie Blazing Star	<u><i>Liatris pycnostachya</i></u>	2-5'	July – Aug	Lilac purple
Cardinal Flower	<u><i>Lobelia cardinalis</i></u>	2-4'	July – Sept.	Scarlet Red
Great Blue Lobelia	<u><i>Lobelia siphilitica</i></u>	2-3'	July – Sept.	Blue
Monkeyflower	<u><i>Mimulus ringens</i></u>	1-3'	June – Sept.	Lilac/purple
Switchgrass	<u><i>Panicum virgatum</i></u>	3-6'	July – Feb??	Pink tinged
Obedient Plant	<u><i>Physostegia virginiana</i></u>	3-4'	June – Sept.	Pink white
Mountain Mint*	<u><i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i></u>	2-3'	July – Sept.	White
Yellow Coneflower	<u><i>Ratibida pinnata</i></u>	1½ - 4'	June – Aug	Yellow
Green Headed Coneflower*	<u><i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i></u>	5-8'	June – Aug	Yellow
Riddell's Goldenrod	<u><i>Solidago riddellii</i></u>	2-3'	Sept. – Oct.	Yellow
Prairie Cordgrass	<u><i>Spartina pectinata</i></u>	4-6'	June – Oct.	Dark green
Tall Meadowrue*	<u><i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i></u>	3-5'	June – July	Cream
Blue Vervain	<u><i>Verbena hastata</i></u>	2-6'	July – Sept.	Purple
Ironweed	<u><i>Vernonia fasciculata</i></u>	3-5'	Aug – Oct	Magenta
Culver's Root	<u><i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i></u>	4-7'	May – Aug	White to pale blue
Golden Alexanders*	<u><i>Zizia aurea</i></u>	1-2'	June – Sept.	Yellow

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<b><i>Wet-Mesic Soil (Shady)</i></b>				
Caterpillar Sedge	<u>Carex crinita</u>	1-2'	May – June	Green
Virginia Wild Rye	<u>Elymus virginicus</u>	4-5'	July – Aug	Green to fall straw
Cardinal Flower	<u>Lobelia cardinalis</u>	2-4'	July – Sept.	Scarlet red
<b><i>Shrubs (Sunny)</i></b>				
Black Chokeberry*	<u>Aronia melanocarpa</u>	3-5'	May – fall	-orange, burgundy, purple
Buttonbush	<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>	3-6'	June – Aug.	White, yellow in fall
Redosier Dogwood* **	<u>Cornus sericea</u>	6-10'	May – June	White /purple, red in fall
Low Bush Honeysuckle*	<u>Diervilla lonicera</u>	1-4'	May – Aug	Yellow
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<b><i>Scientific name</i></b>				
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<b><i>Bloom</i></b>				
<b><i>Color</i></b>				
Pussy Willow	<u>Salix discolor</u>	to 30'	March-April	Silver grey catkins
Steeplebush*	<u>Spiraea tomentosa</u>	2-4'	July – Sept.	Pink
High Bush Cranberry	<u>Viburnum trilobum</u>	8-12'	June.....	White...fall red/purple
<b><i>Shrubs (Shady)</i></b>				
Meadowsweet	<u>Spiraea alba</u>	3-4'	June – Aug	white
<b><i>Trees</i></b>				
Red Maple	<u>Acer rubrum</u>	40-60'		Fall yellow/green, orange, red
River Birch	<u>Betula nigra</u>	To 60'		Green to fall yellow
Paper Birch	<u>Betula papyrifera</u>	50-70'		Green to fall yellow
Tamarack	<u>Larix laricina</u>	To 80'		Green w/yellow flowers
White Cedar	<u>Thuja occidentalis</u>	20-30'		green

\* will grow in sun or partial shade

\*\* Though native, this species may dominate your planting without the proper maintenance and management

Important: All species selected should be wild genotypes, not cultivars.

This list is not totally inclusive of all plant types that can be used in rain gardens; it emphasizes those species native to Wisconsin and should be considered examples of what can be planted.

Species listed under "Dry-Mesic Soil" are not suitable for planting in the bottom of an average rain garden in Dane County, but they can be planted along the top of the garden. Those listed under "Wet Soil" are suitable species for planting in the bottom of the garden.

Individual sites will vary. If a site is very well-drained, species listed under wet-mesic soils may not survive periods of drought even if planted in the bottom of the rain garden.