

Quick Guide to Native Plants for Rain Gardens



Dogwood



Switchgrass



Goldenrod



Joe pye weed



Cardinal flower



Blue flag iris



Culver's root



Turtlehead



Cinnamon fern



Soft sedge



New England aster



Red chokeberry



Rose mallow



Foxglove beardtongue



Marsh milkweed



Quick Guide to Native Plants for Rain Gardens: A Sampler

Common Name	Latin Name (Cultivars often available)	Light Preference	Moisture Preference	Height (in feet)	Bloom Color	Bloom Period	Notes
Iris- blue flag, Virginia, copper, Louisiana hybrids	<i>Iris sp.</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	2-3	variable	May-July	Sword-like leaves provide interest all season
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	pt sun/shade	med-wet	2-4	red	July-Sept	Attracts hummingbirds; short-lived but may self-seed
Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	3-5	white	June-Aug	Good for native bees, hardy and adaptable; nice cut flowers
Joe pye weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	4-6	purple	July-Sept	Excellent tall background plant; attracts swallowtail butterflies
Marsh milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	3-4	pink	July-Aug	Hosts monarch and queen butterflies
Goldenrod- showy, woodland, rough-leaved	<i>Solidago sp.</i>	variable	variable	2-4	yellow	June-Sept	Great for extended fall color. Goldenrod is not allergenic, despite its reputation!
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone sp.</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	3-4	white, pink	July-Sept	Larval food for Baltimore checkerspot butterfly
Asters- New England, sky blue, wood, & others	<i>Aster sp.</i>	variable	variable	2-3	variable	July-Sept	Abundant blooms late summer into fall
Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	full/pt sun	dry-med	3-4	white, pink	June-July	Tubular flowers attract hummingbirds and bees
Rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	5-7	red, pink	May-Sept	Visited by hummingbirds and bees; very showy and hardy
Chokeberry- red, black	<i>Aronia sp.</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	6-10	white	Apr-May	Popular for landscaping with attractive berries and fall color
Dogwood- gray, red, silky	<i>Cornus sp.</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	6-10	white	May-June	Fruit is consumed by many species; very adaptable for most conditions
Winterberry holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	full/pt sun	med-wet	6-10	white	June-July	Male and female plants needed for fruit production
FERNS & OTHERS	Sensitive, cinnamon, ostrich, & others		pt/full shade	2-5			Non-flowering. Some have fertile and non-fertile fronds
	Switchgrass, bluestem, Northern sea oats, Indian, & others		variable	4-6			Green foliage and unique seed heads; many grasses have lovely fall color
GRASS & GRASS-LIKE	Soft rush, fox sedge, tussock sedge, path rush & others		variable	1-2			Many drought-tolerant and adaptable selections; some self-sow; great as landscape features
			variable				Good for texture, diversity, and will tolerate dry spells once established; insignificant but interesting flowers

The Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative (www.centralohioraingardens.org)

Our mission is to promote the benefits of rain gardens for community beautification and clean water. This mission fits well with our founder's (Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District) goals of improving water quality and providing solutions to water quantity issues. Our goal is to collect 1 billion gallons of storm water per year through the use of rain gardens.

Guide funded by

