

RainScapes Plants for Rain Gardens

| Easy/ Reliable | Botanical Name | Common Name | Bloom | Color | Sun Type | Soils | Height | Spacing | Salt Tolerant | Comments |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------|--|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | rainscapes.org | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i> | Wild columbine | June-Aug | red and yellow | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, moist-dry | 2' | 1' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Amsonia hubrechtii</i> | Blue-Star Flower | May-June | blue flowers, yellow fall color | Sun-Pt Shade | | 2' | 18" | | 3' tall, fine texture, blue summer flowers, yellow fall color, needs part sun |
| ✓ | <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | Swamp Milkweed | June-Aug | pink | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Dry-wet | 2 - 4' | 2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> | Common Milkweed | May-Aug | pale purple | Sun | Moist | 3.5 - 6.5' | 2' | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> | Butterfly weed | may-june | orange | Sun | Sand, Loam, Clay, Dry-med | 1 - 3' | 1-2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Aster novae angliae</i> | New England Aster | Aug-Oct | purple | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Med-wet | 2' - 6' | 2'-3' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Aster divaricatus</i> | White Wood Aster | Jul-Oct | white | pt Shade-sh | dry-med wet | 0.5 - 3' | 1-2' | | spreads freely |
| ✓ | <i>Baptisia australis</i> | False Blue Indigo | may-june | blue, purple | Sun-Shade | sand, loam | 3 - 5' | 1-2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| | <i>Chelone glabra/obliqua</i> | Turtlehead | aug-oct | white/pink | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Dry-med | 1 - 4' | 12-18" | | host plant to Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, MD state insect |
| | <i>Chelone lyonii</i> | Pink Turtlehead | aug-oct | white/pink | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Dry-med | 1 - 4' | 12-18" | | host plant to Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly, MD state insect |

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| | <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> | green and gold | mar-jun | yellow | Sun- Shade | dry-med wet; loam | 0.5 - 1' | 1' | | evergreen ground cover |
| ✓ | <i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> | Threadleaf Coreopsis | jun-oct | yellow | Sun, PS | dry-med wet, loam | 1 - 3.5' | 1-2' | | fine texture, deer resistant |
| | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Kim's Knee-Hi' | Dwarf Purple Coneflower | May-Aug | pink | Sun | dry | 15" | 12" | | butterfly attractor, deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus' | Magnus Purple Coneflower | May-Aug | dark pink | Sun | dry-moist | 24" | 15" | | butterfly attractor, deer resistant |
| | <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Razzmatazz' | Razzmatazz Purple Coneflower | June-Aug | dark Pink Double | Sun | dry | 24" | 15" | | butterfly attractor, deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i> | Mistflower | Jul-Oct | blue-purple | pt Shade-sh | dry to wet; clay, loam | 1 - 3.5' | 1-2' | | |
| ✓ | <i>Eupatorium dubium</i> | Coastal Joe-pye Weed ('Little Joe') | | pink, dk pink | Sun, PS | moist | 3-4' | 2' | | |
| | <i>Eupatorium fistulosum</i> | Common Joe-pye weed | jul-sep | pink | Sun | moist-dry | 1.5-6' | 2' | | |
| | <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> | Boneset | Jul-Oct | white | Sun-pt Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, med-wet | 3 - 4' | 1-2' | | |
| ✓ | <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> | Sweet Joe-pye weed | July-Sept | pink-dk pink | Sun-pt Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, moist | 5 - 6' | 1-2' | | |
| ✓ | <i>Geranium maculatum</i> | Wild Geranium | Apr-Jul | pink | Sun-pt shade | dry-med, loam | 1 - 2' | 1-2' | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Helenium autumnale</i> | Sneezeweed | Jul-Nov | yellow | sun-pt shade | med. wet, clay, loam, sand | 1.5 - 6' | 1-2' | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Helianthus angustifolius</i> | Swamp Sunflower | Aug-Oct | yellow | Sun | moist | 1.5 - 5.5' | 2-3' | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> | Marsh Mallow | | pink | Sun | wet-dry | 3' | 2' | ✓ | |
| | <i>Iris cristata</i> | Dwarf Crested Iris | May | light purple early | Partial Sun | gravelly well drained moist soils | 8 - 10" | 8" | ✓ | Edger |

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| | <i>Iris fulva</i> | Copper Iris | June | Copper colored flowers | Sun | Dry-wet | 18 - 24" | 8" | ✓ | One of the Louisiana Iris parents |
| | <i>Iris Versicolor</i> | harlequin blueflag | | | | | | | ✓ | very dependable |
| ✓ | <i>Liatriis spicata</i> | blazingstar | Jul-Aug | purple | Sun-pt shade | clay, loam, sand | 1 - 6.5' | 1-2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Lilium superbum</i> | Turk's Cap Lily | July-Aug | Orange | Sun-pt shade | dry-moist | 6' | 12" | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> | Cardinal flower | July-Oct | red | Sun-pt Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, med-wet | 2' - 4' | 1'-2' | ✓ | don't mulch Place at entry points into the rain garden, hummingbird attractor |
| ✓ | <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> | Great Blue Lobelia | July-Sept | blue | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, med-wet | 2' - 3' | 1'-2' | | Bumblebees |
| ✓ | <i>Mertensia virginica</i> | Virginia Bluebells | Mar-Jun | blue | pt-shade to shade | med-wet;clay, loam | 1 - 2.5' | 1' | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Mimulus ringens</i> | Monkeyflower | Jun-Oct | blue | Sun-pt Shade | moist, loamy | 1 - 3' | 1' | | DELICATE |
| ✓ | <i>Monarda didyma</i> | Bee Balm | June-sept | pink | full Sun-pt Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Med-wet | 12 - 18" | 1' | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Wild Bergamot | Jul-Aug | pink, purple | Sun-pt Shade | Moist-Dry | 1.5 - 5' | 1-2' | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> | Beardtongue | Jun-Aug | white | Sun-pt Shade | dry-med wet; clay, loam, sand | 2 - 5' | 1-2' | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Phlox divaricata</i> | Wild Blue Phlox | Apr-May | blue | pt Shade-sh | moist | 1.5' | 1' | | deer resistant |
| | <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> | Creeping Phlox | Apr-Jun | varied | PS-Shade | moist-dry | .5 - 1.5' | 1' | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Phlox paniculata</i> | Summer phlox | Jul-Oct | deep pink to white | sun-pt shade | moist | 1.5' - 6.5' | 1' | | cultivars are shorter |

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| | <i>Phlox subulata</i> | Moss Phlox | Apr-Jun | varied | Sun | Dry* | .5' | .5' | | deer resistant, plant in driest parts of rain garden |
| ✓ | <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> | Obedient Plant | aug-sep | pink, purple | Sun | moist-dry | 3' | 2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> | Orange Coneflower | jul-oct | yellow-orange | Sun-pt Shade | med wet | 1.5' | 1-2' | | |
| ✓ | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> | Black-eyed Susan | Jun-Oct | yellow | Sun, PS | Dry-Moist | 2-3' | 2' | | |
| | <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> | Green-headed Coneflower | jul-sep | yellow | Sun-pt Shade | moist | 1.5 - 9' | 2' | | |
| | <i>Scenecio aureus</i> | Sneezeweed | May-June | Yellow | Sun-Shade | moist-dry | 15" flowers, 8" tall plant | | | Evergreen heart shaped groundcover with |
| ✓ | <i>Sisyrinchium graminoides</i> | Blue-eyed Grass | Apr-Jun | blue | Sun-pt Shade | moist-dry | 0.5 - 1.5' | .5-1' | | |
| ✓ | <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> | Gray Goldenrod | Jul-Nov | yellow | Sun-pt Shade | Med-Dry | 0.5 - 3' | 1-2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| | <i>Solidago rugosa</i> | Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod | Aug-Nov | yellow | Sun-pt shade | med-wet, loam, sand | 1 - 6.5' | 1-2' | ✓ | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Solidago sphacelata</i> | | August-Sept | yellow | Sun-pt shade | | 18" | | ✓ | Golden Fleece' |
| ✓ | <i>Solidago ulmifolia</i> | Elm leaf Goldenrod | Aug-Sept | yellow | Sun-pt.shade | med-dry | 18" | 18" | ✓ | Wildlife plant |
| | <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> | Foamflower | May | White | pt shade-shade | med-dry | 12" flower, 6" plant | 8" | | Groundcover |

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| ✓ | <i>Tradescantia virginiana</i> | Spiderwort | June, reblooms if cut back after first flowering | blue | Sun-pt shade | med-wet, clay, loam, sand | 1 - 5.5' | 1-2' | ✓ | Long blooming perennial, many cultivars |
| | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | Culver's Root | summer flowers | white | Sun | Sand, Loam, med-dry | 4 - 6' | 2-3' | | |
| | <i>Viola labradorica</i> | Labrador Violet | June | purplish foliage and violet | Sun-pt shade | Sandy, med-dry | 4" | 6" | | groundcover |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | FERNS | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i> | Hay-scented Fern | | | Sun-PS | Dry-moist | 1 - 3' | | | spreads readily |
| ✓ | <i>Onoclea sensibilis</i> | Sensitive Fern | | | Shade | wet-moist | 1 - 3.5' | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> | Cinnamon Fern | | | Sun-Shade | wet-moist | 2.5' | | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Osmunda regalis</i> | Royal Fern | | | Sun-Shade | wet-moist | 2 - 6' | | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> | Christmas Fern | | | PS-Shade | moist | .5 - 2' | | | evergreen |
| | <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | Bracken Fern | | | Sun-PS | dry to wet | 1.5-6' | | | |
| | <i>Thelypteris noveboracensis</i> | New York Fern | deciduous | | Sun-PS | dry-wet | 24 - 36" | | | spreading |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | GRASSES | | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Andropogon gerardi</i> | Big Bluestem | aug-oct | | Sun, PS | Dry-Moist-Wet | 3 - 8' | | | deer resistant |
| ✓ | <i>Andropogon virginicus</i> | Broomsedge | aug-nov | | Sun, PS | Dry | 1 - 3' | | | aggressive; thin as needed |
| | <i>Carex stricata</i> | Tussock Sedge | may-aug | | Sun, PS | Moist-Wet | 1 - 3' | | | |

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| | <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i> | Pennsylvania Sedge | | | Shade-PS | Moist-Wet | 6 - 8" | 6" | | also used as shade lawn replacement |
| ✓ | <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> | River Oats | Jul-Sep | | Sun-Shade | dry-med, clay, loam, sand | 2 - 5' | | ✓ | deer resistant, spreads freely |
| | <i>Muehlenbergia capillaris</i> | Pink Muhly Grass | Aug-Sept | pink efflorescences | Sun | Dry, well drained moist | 24" | 24" | | may not come back in hard winter; only plant in spring |
| ✓ | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | Switchgrass | Jul-Aug | | Sun-Shade | Sand, Loam, Clay, Med-wet | 2' - 3' | 1' | ✓ | deer resistant, cultivars shorter ('Shenandoah') |
| ✓ | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | Little Bluestem | Aug-Oct | | Sun-pt Shade | dry | 4' | | ✓ | deer resistant |
| | <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> | Purple Love Grass | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Shrubs | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> (<i>Photinia pyrifolia</i>) | Red chokeberry | Mar-May | white | sun-ps | dry to wet | 1.5' - 13' | | ✓ | red berries, upright/narrow, favorite food of Brown Thrasher |
| | <i>Beautyberry</i> , <i>Callicarpa</i> | American Beautyberry | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> | Sweetshrub | June | Maroon flowers yellow fall color | | dry to wet | 3 - 8' | 3' | | (unless 'Athens' cultivar - yellow), fragrant flowers when in full sun |
| ✓ | <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | Buttonbush | July-Aug | white | sun-PS | moist-wet | 3 - 10' | 4' | | great wildlife |
| | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Hummingbird' | Sweet Pepper Bush | | | | | | | ✓ | |

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| ✓ | <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> 'Ruby Spice' | Ruby Spice Summersweet, Pink dwarf Sweet Pennerbush | Spring | pink | | | | | ✓ | Pink Flowers, upright, dwarf, yellow fall color |
| ✓ | <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> | Alternate-leaf Dogwood | white | white | PS | dry-moist | | | | red fall color, understory shrub |
| | <i>Cornus amomum</i> | Silky dogwood | May-Jun | white | sun-PS | moist-wet | 6 - 1 2' | | | red branches in winter |
| | <i>Cornus alba</i> 'Elegantissima' | Red Twig Dogwood | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Cornus racemosa</i> | gray dogwood | May-Jun | white | Sun-shade | dry-moist | 6 - 12' | | | red branches in winter |
| ✓ | <i>Cornus sericea</i> | Redosier Dogwood | white flowers | white | | | | | | Red winter twig |
| | <i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> | Black Huckleberry | May-June | white | sun-pt shade | dry- moist | 2 - 3' | | | |
| | <i>Fothergilla 'Mt. Airy'</i> | Witch Alder | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| ✓ | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Winterberry | May-July | white | full sun-pt shade | dry-wet | 6 - 12' | | ✓ | females w/red berries in winter; deciduous - may abort fruit in dry summers; choose appropriate Male- Female pairing |
| ✓ | <i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Densa' | Inkberry | May-Jun | white | sun-shade | dry-moist | 6 - 10' | | ✓ | females w/black berries; Densa is a compact/ dwarf form |
| ✓ | <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | Spicebush | late Spring | yellow | shade-pt shade | moist-dry | 6 - 10' | | | Spicebush Butterfly plant, deer resistant |
| | <i>Myrica cerifera</i> 'Nana' | Dwarf Wax Myrtle | | | Sun-shade | moist-dry well drained | 3' | 3' | | Fine-medium texture, evergreen, shears well |

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| ✓ | <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> | Northern Bayberry | | | Sun-shade | moist-dry well drained | 6' | 4' | ✓ | Fine texture, evergreen, shears well, wildlife plant |
| | <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> | Common elderberry | Jun-July | white | sun-shade | dry to wet | 6 - 12' | | | purple fruit-wildlife |
| | <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> | Mapleleaf viburnum | May | white | pt shade | dry | | | | Mauvey fall color, maple shaped leaves, |
| ✓ | <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> | Arrowwood | April-May | white | Sun-pt shade | dry to moist | 3 - 6.5' | | ✓ | dk purple fruit-wildlife |
| | <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> | Blackhaw | Apr-May | white | sun-pt shade | dry to moist | 20' | | | purple fruit-wildlife |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Trees | | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> | Serviceberry; shadbush | May-July | white | PS to shade | moist-wet | 15 - 25' | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Betula nigra</i> 'Little King | Little King River Birch | | | | | 15 - 20' | | | Dwarf River birch; also called 'Fox Valley' |
| ✓ | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Redbud | April-May | pink | sun-PS | dry | 20 - 35' | | | |
| | <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Fringetree | May | White | | | | | | yellow fall color, gray winter bark; females make olive like drupes |
| | <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | Witch hazel | Sep-Dec | small yellow fragrant | full sun-PS | dry to moist | 15 - 30' | | | yellow fall leaf color |
| | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> | St. Johnswort | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ | <i>Ilex opaca</i> | American Holly | | white | sun-PS | dry-moist | 65' | | | females w/red berries in winter |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | tall and/or may need support | | | | | | | | | |



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