

Native Plants for Rain Gardens

Moisture Loving Plants, Wet Areas

Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
Carolina Water-hyssop (*Bacopa caroliniana*)
Swamp Marigold (*Bidens aristosa*)
Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*)
Titi, Leatherwood (*Cyrilla racemiflora*)
White Top Sedge (*Dichromena colorata*)
Blue Mud Plantain (*Heteranthera limosa*)

Blue Water Leaf (*Hydrolea ovata*)
Southern Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*)
Spring Obedient Plant (*Physostegia intermedia*)
Fall Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)
Yellow Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia lutea*)
Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia mariana*)
Virginia Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia virginica*)

Ferns (most ferns do well in damp areas):

Southern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*)
Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*)
Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)
Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)
Southern Wood Fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*)

Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)
Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
Netted Chain Fern (*Woodwardia areolata*)
Virginia Chain Fern (*Woodwardia virginica*)

Moisture Loving Plants, Drier Areas:

Woodoats (*Chasmanthus latifolium*)
Slender Woodoats (*Chasmanthus laxum*)
Blue Mist Flower (*Eupatorium coelestinum*)
Virginia Wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*)
Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)
Maximillian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*)
Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus laevis*)
Marshmallow Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)
Carolina Spiderlily (*Hymenocallis caroliniana*)
Salt Marsh Mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Gulf Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)
Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)

Swamp Rose (*Rosa palustris*)
Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*)
Hairy Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*)
Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)
Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)
Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*)
Prairie Blue Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*)
Prairie Spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*)
Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*)
Eastern Gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)
Cherokee Sedge (*Carex cherokeensis*)

Shrubs , Understory Trees and Vines that do well near Rain Gardens

Southern swamp maple (*Acer rubrum*)
American Beauty-berry (*Callicarpa americana*)
Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
American Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)
Parsley Hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*)
Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsimium sempervirens*)
Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua*)
Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Southern Wax Myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*)

Eastern Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
Red Bay (*Persea borbonia*)
Carolina Rose (*Rosa carolina*)
Prairie Rose (*Rosa setigera*)
Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)
Coral-berry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)
Farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboretum*)
Arrowood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)



Virginia Meadow-beauty (*Rhexia virginica*)

What is a Rain Garden? A rain garden is a shallow depression designed to capture stormwater runoff from your roof and other impervious areas around your home, allowing runoff to soak into the ground and protect water quality. Rain gardens can increase groundwater recharge and reduce erosion and flooding, while providing other benefits to the environment. Site the rain garden in a place with good drainage (to minimize mosquitos, water should not stand more than three days). Full or intermediate sunlight is best. A relatively flat section of your yard that has well-drained soil may be a good place for construction. With soil dug from the depression, build a berm, or small earthen dam, on the downhill side of the rain garden to keep water in the garden. Stabilize the berm with mulch or ground cover to prevent erosion, and provide a place for water to overflow from the garden in flood events. **Benefits of Rain Gardens:** When planted with native plants, rain gardens provide habitat for wildlife and increase the number and diversity of fun-to-watch birds and butterflies. Be sure to inspect your rain garden periodically during and/or immediately after rainfall events to confirm the rain garden retains water as designed. Enjoy your new rain garden!