

The Rain Garden plant list represents plants that grow well in mesic and dry conditions in Illinois, but can tolerate being periodically inundated for short periods of time. This plant list is adapted from *The Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens* and the NRCS *Stormwater Runoff Control Standard (CPS-570)* with permission of the author.

ILLINOIS URBAN N	/ANUAL - Rain Garde	en 897								January 2014
Common Name	Latin Name	Form	Exposure	Color	Bloom Time	Height	Where ¹	Spacing	Zone ²	Origin
Moonshine Yarrow	Achillea 'Moonshine'	Forb/Flower	Sun	Yellow	June-Sept	12 -18"	Sides & Front	18"	4 to 8	Cultivated Hybrid
Sweet Flag	Acorus calamus	Forb/Flower	Sun	Green foliage	Apr – Oct	24 - 30"	Bottom	12-24"	4 to 10	Native to Midwest
Maidenhair Fern	Adiantum pedatum	Fern	Med. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	12 - 30"	Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Blue Star	Amsonia tabernaemontana	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	May	24 - 36"	Back & Sides	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardi	Grass	Sun - Lt. Shade	Bronze/Gray Blue	July - Aug	5 - 9 ft	Back & Bottom	24"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Columbine	Aquilegia canadensis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Shade	Red/Yellow	Apr - June	24-36"	Sides & Front	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Spikenard	Aralia racemosa	Forb/Flower	Shade	White	June - Aug	36 - 60"	Sides & Back	24"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Black Chokeberry	Aronia melanocarpa	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	May	3 - 6 ft	Bottom & Back	36"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
White Goat's Beard	Aruncus dioicus	Forb/Flower	Sun - Shade	Cream	June	36 - 60"	Sides & Back	24"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Wild Ginger	Asarum canadense	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	Maroon	Apr - May	6"	Sides & Front	15"	3 to 5	Native to Midwest
Marsh Milkweed	Asclepias incarnata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Pink	July - Sept	36 - 60"	Bottom	24"	3 to 6	Native to Midwest
Butterfly Milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Orange	June - Aug	18 - 36"	Sides & Front	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Lady Fern	Athyrium filix-femina	Fern	Lt. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	12 - 36"	Bottom & Sides	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Blue False Indigo	Baptisia australis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	May - June	36 - 60"	Back & Bottom	36"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
River Birch	Betula nigra	Tree	Sun - Med. Shade	Brown	Mar - Apr	50- 75 ft	Back & Bottom	30 - 40 ft	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Ohio Horsemint	Blephilia ciliata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue	May - July	18 - 24"	Sides & Front	12"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Sideoats grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	Grass/Sedge	Sun	Tan	July - Sept	12 - 30"	Sides	15"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Harebells	Campanula rotundifolia	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue	June - July	12 - 18"	Front & Sides	12"	2 to 7	Native to Midwest
Bebb's Sedge	Carex bebbii	Grass/Sedge	Sun	Green	May - Jun	12"	Bottom, Sides & Front	12"	2 to 6	Native to Midwest
Bottlebrush Sedge	Carex comosa	Grass/Sedge		Green	May - Jun	24 - 48"	Bottom	24"	2 to 8	Native to Midwest
Nodding Sedge	Carex crinita	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Med. Shade	Green foliage	May - July	24 - 48"	Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Emory's Sedge	Carex emoryi	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue-green foliage	May - Jun	12 - 24"	Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Porcupine Sedge	Carex hystericina	Grass/Sedge		Green	May - Jun	24 - 36"	Bottom	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Hop Sedge	Carex lupulina	Grass/Sedge	Med. Shade	Green foliage	May - Aug	24-42"	Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Palm Sedge	Carex muskingumensis	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Shade	Green foliage	May - Oct	12 - 24"	Sides & Bottom	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Sun Sedge	Carex pennsylvanica	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Shade	Green foliage	May - June	4 - 8"	Front & Sides	12"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Awl Fruited Sedge	Carex stipata	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Lt. Shade	Green	May - Jun	36 - 72"	Back & Bottom	12"	2 to 9	Native to Midwest
Tussock Sedge	Carex stricta	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Med. Shade	Light green foliage	May - June	12 - 36"	Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Fox Sedge	Carex vulpinoidea	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Med. Shade	Green foliage	May - July	12 - 30"	Bottom, Sides & Front	18"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Turtlehead	Chelone glabra	Forb/Flower	Med. Shade	White	Aug - Oct	24 - 36"	Sides & Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Rose Turtlehead	Chelone obliqua	Forb/Flower	Sun - Shade	Rose	Sept - Oct	30 - 48"	Sides & Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Prairie Coreopsis	Coreopsis palmata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Yellow	June - July	18 - 24"	Sides	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Tall Coreopsis	Coreopsis tripteis	Forb/Flower	Sun	Yellow	July - Sept	2 - 8'	Sides	12"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Threadleaf-tickseed	Coreopsis verticillata	Forb/Flower	Sun	Yellow	June - Sept	18 - 36"	Sides	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Red-osier Dogwood, 'Isanti'	Cornus serciea 'Isanti'	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	May - June	4 - 8 ft	Bottom & Back	6 ft	2 to 7	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Hazelnut	Corylus americana	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	Red	Mar - Apr	10 - 16 ft	Back	10 ft	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea		Sun	Purple	June - Aug	12 - 24"	Front & Sides	16"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Dwarf-bush Honeysuckle	Diervilla lonicera		Sun - Shade	Yellow	June	24 - 36"	Sides & Bottom	36"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Purple Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea		Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple	June - Aug	30 - 40"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Rattlesnake Master	Eryngium yuccifolium	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Greenish White	June - Sept	24 - 48"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Mist Flower	Eupatorium coelestinum	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Purple	Aug - Oct	18 - 24"	Sides	18"	5 to 8	Native to Midwest
Joe-Pye Weed	Eupatorium maculatum	Forb/Flower	Sun	Purple	July - Sept	48 - 80"	Bottom & Back	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Boneset	Eupatorium perfoliatum	Forb/Flower	Sun	White	Aug - Sept	36 - 48"	Bottom & Back	12"	2 to 10	Native to Midwest
Joe-Pye Weed 'Little Joe'	Eupatorium dubium 'Little Joe'	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple	July - Sept	36 - 48"	Bottom & Sides	24"	3 to 9	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Large-leaf Aster	Eurybia macrophyllus	Forb/Flower	Med. Shade	Lilac	Aug - Oct	12 - 18"	Sides	24"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Queen of the Prairie	Filipendula rubra	Forb/Flower	Sun	Pink	July - Aug	48 - 60"	Back & Bottom	24"	3 to 6	Native to Midwest
Indian Blanket	Gaillardia x grandiflora	Forb/Flower	Sun	Red/Yellow	June - Sept	24 - 36"	Sides	18"	3 to 10	Hybrid, Native to Midwest

RAIN GARDEN PLANT LIST TABLE 897-1

Common Name	Latin Name	Form	Exposure	Color	Bloom Time	Height	Where ¹	Spacing	Zone ²	Origin
Bottle Gentian	Gentiana andrewsii	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue	Aug-Oct	24"	Bottom & Sides	12"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	Pink/Lilac	Apr - May	18 - 24"	Sides & Front	15"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Prairie Smoke	Geum Triflorum	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple/Pink	May - July	6 - 18"	Front	12"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
American Witch Hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	Yellow	Feb - Apr	10 - 15 ft	Back	6 ft	3 to 10	Native to Midwest
Sneezeweed	Helenium autumnale	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	Aug - Oct	36 - 60"	Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Ox-eye Sunflower	Heliopsis helianthoides	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	June - Sept	24 - 48"	Back & Bottom	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Sharp-lobed Hepatica	Hepatica acutiloba	Forb/Flower	Med. Shade - Shade	Light Blue	April - May	36 - 72"	Front & Sides	12"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Alum Root, Coral Bells	Heuchera richardsonii	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Cream	May - June	12 - 24"	Sides & Front	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
	Hibiscus moscheutos									
Rose Mallow	Many cultivars	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Various	July - Oct	36 - 48"	Bottom, Sides & Front	24 - 36"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Smooth Hydrangea	Hydrangea arborescens	Shrub	Lt. Shade - Med. Shade	White	June - Sept	36 - 60"	Back	4 ft	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Red Sprite Winterberry Holly	Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite'	Shrub	Sun - Lt. Shade	White	June - July	24 - 36"	Back & Bottom	36"	3 to 9	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Jim Dandy Winterberry Holly	Ilex verticillata 'Jim Dandy'	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	June - July	36 - 72"	Back & Bottom	4 ft	3 to 9	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Copper Iris	Iris fulva	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Copper	May - July	18 - 36"	Bottom	18"	5 to 9	Native to Midwest
Blue Flag Iris	Iris versicolor	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	May - July	24 - 36"	Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Southern Blue Flag Iris	Iris virginica	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue	May - June	12 - 42"	Bottom	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Soft Rush	Juncus effusus	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Lt. Shade	Brown	May - Sept	12 - 24"	Bottom	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Creeping Juniper	Juniperus horizontalis	Shrub	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue-green foliage	N/A	12"	Sides & Front	36"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Rough Blazingstar	Liatris aspera	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple	Sept	24 - 48"	Sides & Back	15"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Meadow Blazing Star	Liatris ligulistylis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple	July - Sept	30 - 50"	Back & Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Prairie Blazingstar	Liatris pycnostachya	Forb/Flower	Sun	Purple	July - Aug	30 - 48"	Sides & Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Dense Blazingstar	Liatris spicata	Forb/Flower	Sun	Purple	July - Aug	24 - 48"	Sides & Bottom	12"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Scaly Blazingstar	Liatris squarrosa	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Purple	July - Aug	12 - 24"	Sides & Front	15"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Spice Bush	Lindera benzoin	Shrub	Sun - Shade	Greenish yellow	Mar	6 - 14 ft	Bottom	8 ft	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Cardinal Flower	Lobelia cardinalis	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	Red	July - Sept	24 - 54"	Bottom	15"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Great Blue Lobelia	Lobelia siphilitica	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Blue	Aug - Sept	12 - 30"	Bottom & Front	15"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
False Solomon's Seal	Maianthemum racemosa	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	White	Apr - June	12 - 36"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Ostrich Fern	Matteuccia struthiopteris	Fern	Lt. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	36 - 72"	Bottom	48"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Bluebells	Mertensia virginica	Forb/Flower	Sun - Shade	Blue	Apr - May	12 - 24"	Sides & Front	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Monkeyflower	Mimulus ringens	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	Jun - Aug	12 - 36"	Bottom	12"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Bee Balm	Monarda bradburiana	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Lavender	May - June	18 - 24'	Sides & Bottom	18"	5 to 8	Native to Midwest
Bergamot	Monarda fistulosa	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Lavender	July - Sept	24 - 60"	Back & Bottom	24"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Sensitive Fern	Onoclea sensibilis	Fern	Lt. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	24 - 48"	Bottom	18"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Cinnamon Fern	Osmunda cinnamomea	Fern	Lt. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	24 - 36"	Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Foxglove Beardtongue	Penstemon digitalis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	White	Jun - Jul	24 - 36"	Sides	12"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Smooth Phlox	Phlox glaberrima	Forb/Flower	Sun	Pinkish/Purple	May - June	24 - 36"	Sides & Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Creeping Phlox	Phlox stolonifera	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Pink, Blue, White	July - Sept	6 - 12"	Front	12"	4 to 9	Native to Southeast U.S.
Jacob's Ladder	Polemonium reptans	Forb/Flower	Shade	Blue	Apr - June	8 - 18"	Sides & Front	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum biflorum	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	Cream	Apr - June	24 - 36"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Christmas Fern	Polystichum acrostichoides	Fern	Lt. Shade - Shade	Green foliage	N/A	24"	Bottom & Sides	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Yellow Coneflower	Ratibida pinnata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	June - Aug	36 - 72"	Back	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
	Rosa species									
Shrub Rose Cultivars	e.g 'Nearly Wild'	Shrub	Sun - Lt. Shade	Pink	May - Sept	30 - 40"	Back	36"	4 to 9	Cultivated Hybrid
Orange Coneflower	Rudbeckia fulgida									
'Goldsturm'	'Goldsturm'	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	July - Sept	18 - 30"	Sides & Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta	Forb/Flower	Sun	Yellow	June - Sept	12 - 30"	Sides	18"	3 to 7	Native to Midwest
Greenheaded Coneflower	Rudbeckia laciniata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Yellow	July - Sept	2 - 9 ft	Back & Bottom	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Missouri Coneflower	Rudbeckia missouriensis	Forb/Flower	Sun	Yellow	July - Aug	18 - 30"	Sides	18"	5 to 8	Native to Midwest
Sweet Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia subtomentosa	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Yellow	Aug - Sept	36 - 54"	Bottom	18"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Wild Petunia	Ruellia humilis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Lavender	June - Sept	8 - 12"	Front	15"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	Grass/Sedge	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue-green foliage	Aug	24 - 48"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Royal Catchfly	Silene regia	Forb/Flower	Med. Shade	Red	July – Aug	3 – 4'	Sides & Back	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Compass Plant	Silphium laciniatum	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	July - Sept	5 - 8 ft	Bottom & Back	24"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Showy Goldenrod	Solidago speciosa	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Yellow	July - Sept	24 - 48"	Sides & Back	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Indian Grass	Sorghastrum nutans			Yellow/Brown	Sept - Feb	4 - 7 ft	Back & Bottom	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Prairie Dropseed	Sporobolus heterolepis	Grass/Sedge	Sun	Tan	Aug - Oct	18 - 24"	Sides & Back	30"	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Celandine Poppy	Stylophorum diphyllum	Forb/Flower	Shade	Yellow	Apr - May	16 - 24"	Sides & Front	18"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
	Symphoricarpos	<u>.</u>		S. 1 44/1 -	I		Sides, Bottom,		a	
Snowberry or Coralberry	e.g. 'Hancock'	Shrub	Sun - Lt. Shade	Pink/White	June - July	18 - 36"	& Back	36"	3 to 7	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Smooth Blue Aster	Symphotrichum laeve	Forb/Flower	Sun	Blue	Aug - Oct	24 - 48"	Sides & Bottom	12"	4 to 10	Native to Midwest

RAIN GARDEN PLANT LIST TABLE 897-1

Common Name	Latin Name	Form	Exposure	Color	Bloom Time	Height	Where ¹	Spacing	Zone ²	Origin
	Symphotrichum novae-angliae									
Purple Dome Aster	'Purple Dome'	Forb/Flower	Sun	Purple	Aug - Sept	18 - 24"	Sides & Front	18"	5 to 8	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Aromatic Aster	Symphotrichum oblongifolium	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue to Purple	Sept - Nov	12 - 30"	Sides & Front	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Sky Blue Aster	Symphotrichum oolentangiense	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	Sept - Oct	18 - 36"	Sides & Back	15"	3 to 6	Native to Midwest
Purple Daisy Aster	Symphotrichum patens	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Rose/Purple	Aug - Oct	12 - 24"	Sides & Front	18"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Silky Aster	Symphotrichum pratense	Forb/Flower	Sun	Violet	Aug - Sept	18 - 24"	Sides & Front	15"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
American Arborvitae	Thuja occidentalis	Tree/Shrub	Sun - Lt. Shade	Green foliage	N/A	4 - 40 ft	Back & Bottom	5-15'	2 to 7	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Foam Flower	Tiarella cordifolia	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	White	Apr - June	12 - 24"	Front & Sides	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Ohio Spiderwort	Tradescantia ohiensis	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	Purple	May - July	24 - 48"	Sides & Bottom	15"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Blue Vervain	Verbena hastata	Forb/Flower	Sun	Blue	July - Sept	24 - 60"	Back & Bottom	12"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Ironweed	Vernonia fasiculata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Purple	July - Aug	36 - 48"	Bottom	24"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest
Culver's Root	Veronicastrum virginicum	Forb/Flower	Sun - Med. Shade	White	June - Aug	36 - 60"	Bottom	18"	3 to 8	Native to Midwest
Southern Arrowwood	Viburnum dentatum	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	May - June	6 - 10 ft	Bottom & Back	6 ft	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Nannyberry	Viburnum lentago	Shrub	Sun - Shade	White	May - June	14 - 18 ft	Bottom & Back	10 ft	2 to 8	Native to Midwest
Black Haw Viburnum	Viburnum prunifolium	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	Feb - Apr	12 - 15 ft	Bottom & Back	8 ft	3 to 9	Native to Midwest
Compact American	Viburnum trilobum									
Highbush Cranberry	Various compact species	Shrub	Sun - Med. Shade	White	May - June	5 - 8 ft	Back & Bottom	6 ft	3 to 7	Cultivar, Native to Midwest
Bird's Foot Violet	Viola pedata	Forb/Flower	Sun - Lt. Shade	Blue	Mar - May	3 - 4"	Front	12"	4 to 8	Native to Midwest
Barren Strawberry	Waldsteinia fragarioides	Forb/Flower	Lt. Shade - Shade	Yellow	Apr - June	4 - 6"	Front	12"	4 to 7	Native to Midwest
Golden Alexanders	Zizea aurea	Forb/Flower	Sun - Shade	Yellow	May - July	24 - 36"	Bottom, Sides & Front	12"	4 to 9	Native to Midwest

¹ The column labeled **Where** refers to the position in the garden the plants should be planted based on water depth and duration and relative to other vegetation. Plants labeled **Bottom** should be planted in the bottom of the rain garden. Plants labeled **Bottom** must tolerate the most water and may also be taller plants. Plants labeled **Sides** prefer average to dry moisture conditions and should be planted on the sides of the rain garden. Plants labeled **Front** are generally shorter edging plants; and **Back** are taller border plants.

² The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is located at www.planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.