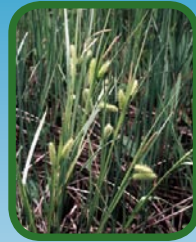


# SOME SAMPLE RAIN GARDEN PLANTS



Arrowhead  
*Sagittaria latifolia*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



Bottlebrush sedge  
*Carex hystericina*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: May-July)



Cardinal flower  
*Lobelia cardinalis*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



Culver's root  
*Veronicastrum virginicum*  
(3-5' High, Blooms: July-Aug.)



False Dragon's Head  
*Physostegia virginiana*  
(1-4' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



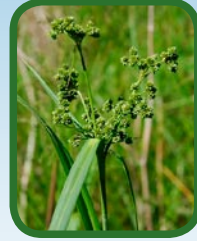
Fox sedge  
*Carex vulpinoidea*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: June-Aug.)



Golden Alexander  
*Zizia aurea*  
(1-2' High, Blooms: May-June)



Great blue lobelia  
*Lobelia siphilitica*  
(1-4' High, Blooms: Aug-Sept.)



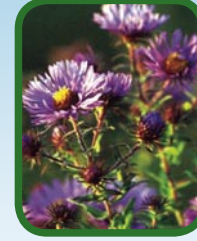
Green bulrush  
*Scirpus atrovirens*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: May-July)



Purple prairie clover  
*Dalea purpurea*  
(1-2' High, Blooms: June-Aug.)



Mountain mint  
*Pycnanthemum virginianum*  
(1-4' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



New England aster  
*Aster novae-angliae*  
(1-4' High, Blooms: Aug-Oct.)



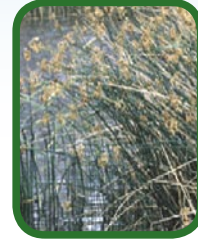
Prairie blazing star  
*Liatris pycnostachya*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



River bulrush  
*Scirpus fluviatilis*  
(3-5' High, Blooms: June-Aug.)



Dogtooth Daisy  
*Helenium autumnale*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: Aug-Oct.)



Soft-stemmed bulrush  
*Scirpus validus*  
(3-9' High, Blooms: May-July)



Spotted Joe-pye  
*Eupatorium maculatum*  
(2-5' High, Blooms: July-Sept.)



Stiff goldenrod  
*Solidago rigida*  
(1-4' High, Blooms: July-Oct.)



Red milkweed  
*Asclepias incarnata*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: July-Aug.)



Sweet flag  
*Acorus calamus*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: May-June)



Torrey's rush  
*Juncus torreyi*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: June-July)



Water plantain  
*Alisma subcordatum*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: June-Sept.)



Wild bergamot  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
(2-4' High, Blooms: July-Aug.)



Wild blue flag iris  
*iris virginica shrevei*  
(1-3' High, Blooms: May-July)

Brochure design courtesy of Applied Ecological Services, Inc.  
Want more information? Call or visit us at [www.appliedeco.com](http://www.appliedeco.com)



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For more details on Rain Garden construction, go to: [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/raingarden.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/raingarden.htm).

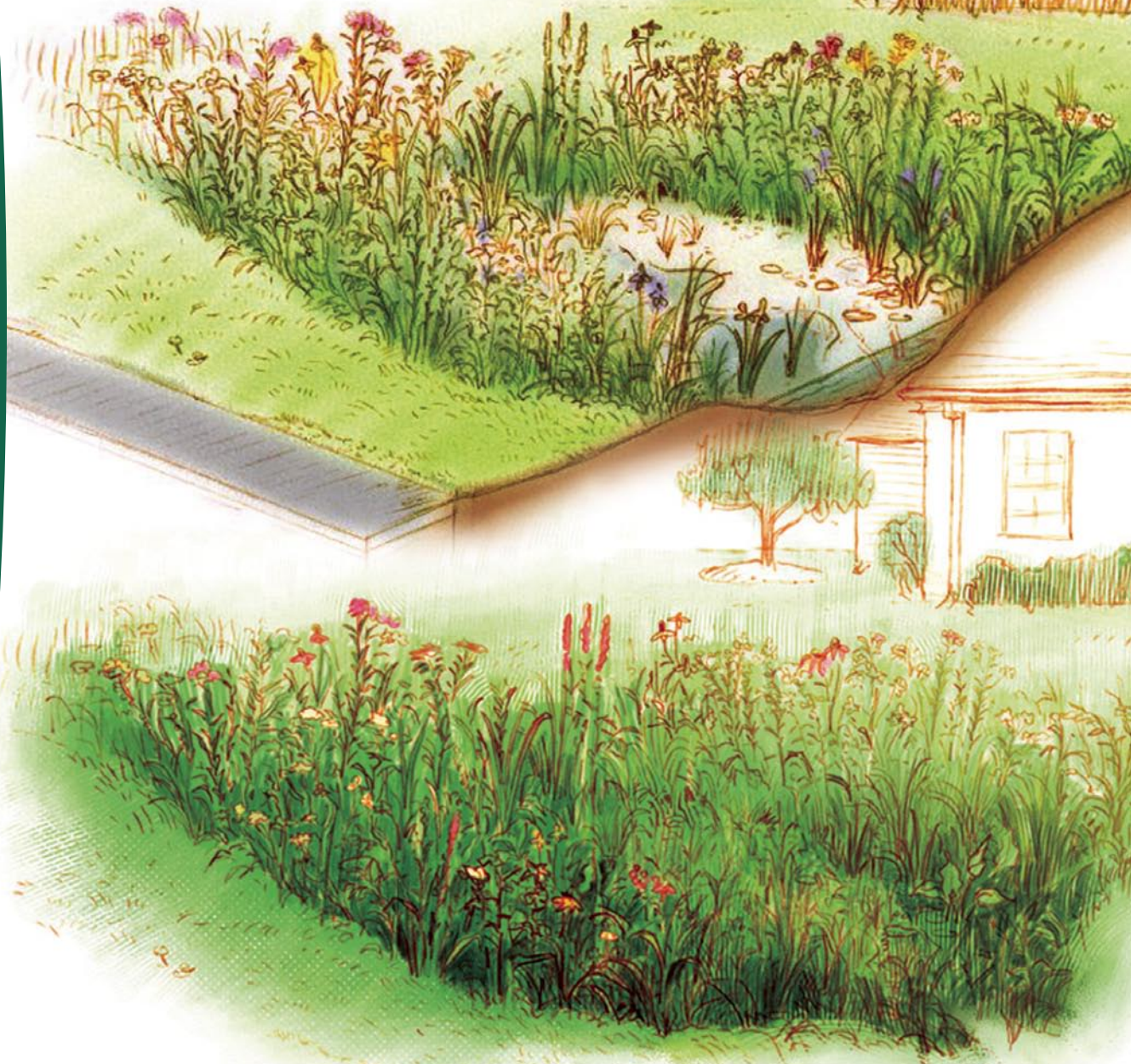
Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries, Spring Lake Restoration Nurseries and Kaw River Restoration Nurseries are divisions of Applied Ecological Services, Inc., 17921 Smith Road, Brodhead, WI 53520. Visit us at [www.appliedeco.com](http://www.appliedeco.com).



A Program of The Conservation Foundation

[www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org)

# Build your own RAIN GARDEN



## What is a Rain Garden?

A "Rain Garden" is simply a shallow depression in your yard that's planted with native wetland or wet-prairie wildflowers and grasses. Its purpose is to gather, filter and infiltrate rainwater into the ground (restoring the aquifer), provide habitat for wetland fauna and deliver enjoyment for its owner (that's you!).

## What is a Rain Garden?

A Rain Garden is simply a shallow depression that is planted with native wetland or wet-prairie wildflowers and grasses. It is designed to collect water that runs off your roof or is discharged from your sump pump. Rain Gardens are gaining popularity for three reasons:

1. Rain Gardens make good use of stormwater runoff; the native plants filter and clean runoff before infiltrating it into the ground, to restore the aquifer (our underground water supply). And by keeping runoff out of storm drains, rain gardens also help protect water quality in local lakes and streams.
2. Rain Gardens are planted with beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance native perennial plants.
3. Rain Gardens provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects, such as mosquito-devouring dragonflies!

## Simple Construction

It's easy! Just follow these easy steps:

1. Dig a shallow depression with a level bottom. Size depends on your type of soil and the area of your roof and/or drainage area. A good guesstimate is 20% of your



drain area if your soil is sandy, 30% for loam, and 40-50% for clay.

Pick a naturally low spot in your yard at least 10 feet from your house. Full sun is best for the two example designs below. Try to choose a spot that gets at least a half-day of sunlight.

A depression of two to six inches is fine. Slope the sides gradually from the edge to the level bottom. For heavy clay soils, dig the rain garden deeper or mix topsoil with

sand and compost to improve drainage. Test this with a garden hose. French drains can also aid infiltration.

2. Direct your downspout or sump pump outlet to your Rain Garden, either by digging a shallow swale—a linear depression designed to channel water—or by routing it through a buried 4" PVC pipe.

3. Plant your raingarden with native plants appropriate for your soil type and sun/shade conditions. See the examples below for ideas.

4. If it doesn't rain, water your planting every other day for the first few weeks, until plants are growing and well-established.

Once your native Rain Garden plants are established, they'll thrive without additional watering. Fertilizers are not recommended.



## Too much of a good thing

During heavy rains, your rain garden may overflow. Make sure this overflow follows the drainage pattern originally designed for your lot. Test this by filling your depression with a garden hose and watching the overflow. If needed, dig a shallow swale to direct overflow toward the street or other downhill areas away from buildings.

## Local Genotypes

Make sure the genotype of the plants/seed you use is proper for your area. A Yellow Coneflower from Texas isn't the same as a Yellow Coneflower from Minnesota, and shouldn't be planted there. It might not do well – or worse, it might do *too* well and crowd out surrounding species. Avoid this by using genotypes proper for your area. Unfortunately, growers who sell non-local genotypes (knowingly or not) may not even keep collection or source records, so the only dependable strategy is to buy from well-respected growers with established track records.

## More Tips

- Weed biweekly until native plants are established.
- Avoid using lawn fertilizers near the Rain Garden. They stimulate weeds without benefitting your native plants.
- Don't worry about mosquitoes. A properly constructed rain garden will not hold water long



enough for mosquitoes to reproduce, but even if they do, dragonflies, swallows and other natural controls will keep them in check.

- Come spring, mow and remove dead vegetation. Or burn it off if your fire-department regulations allow. Native plants thrive with fire management.
- Place natural rocks, bird houses, a bench or garden ornaments in and around your Rain Garden! Have fun with your own backyard landscape.

- Add plenty of native sedges and grasses to physically support taller species (hold them upright) and provide a visually textured background that ties the garden together.

## The Conservation Foundation...

... is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in N.E. Illinois.

Established in 1972, we work closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land-use planners, park districts and forest preserves. We have helped protect more than 30,000 acres of open space.

The Conservation Foundation has more than 4,500 donors and members, and 500 volunteers.

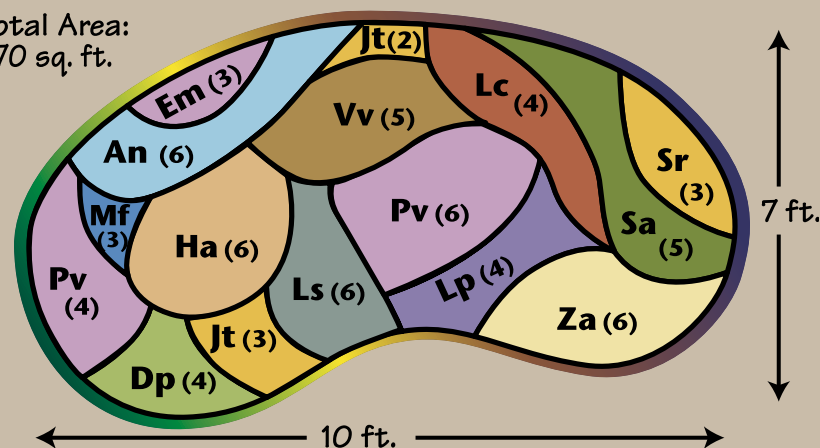
Our main office is at the McDonald Farm in Naperville, IL., with another at the Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, IL. For more information, visit [www.theconservationfoundation.org](http://www.theconservationfoundation.org).



## EXAMPLE RAIN GARDEN for Well-Drained to Sandy Soils



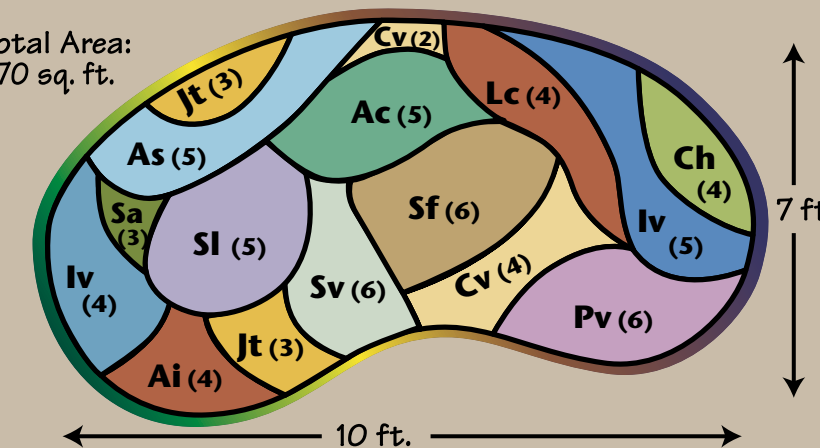
Total Area: 70 sq. ft.



## EXAMPLE RAIN GARDEN for Clay Soils



Total Area: 70 sq. ft.



Abbrev.	Common Name	Species Name	No. of Plants	Shopping List
An	New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dp	Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Em	Spotted Joe-Pye	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ha	Dogtooth Daisy	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jt	Torrey's rush	<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lp	Prairie blazing star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lc	Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ls	Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Abbrev.	Common Name	Species Name	No. of Plants	Shopping List
Mf	Wild bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pv	Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sa	Green bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sr	Stiff goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vv	Culver's root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Za	Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Plants Needed			70	

Abbrev.	Common Name	Species Name	No. of Plants	Shopping List
Ac	Sweet flag	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ai	Red milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
As	Water plantain	<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ch	Bottle brush sedge	<i>Carex hystericina</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cv	Fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iv	Wild blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jt	Torrey's rush	<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Abbrev.	Common Name	Species Name	No. of Plants	Shopping List
Lc	Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pv	False dragon's head	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sl	Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sa	Green bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sf	River bulrush	<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sv	Soft-stemmed bulrush	<i>Scirpus validus</i>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total Plants Needed			69	

These designs are examples only. Please contact our nurseries for additional recommended species. With information on your region and site conditions, we can tailor the species selections with suggestions that are most appropriate for your rain garden.