

Inlet side of rain garden – SUNNY AREA

Iris Versicolor (Blue Flag) - grows to 1-2'



Habitat: Iris versicolor prefers rich, well-drained, loamy, peaty soils in full to partial shade. The plant benefits from the addition of lime and rich, organic materials like compost. They are best planted in flower and water gardens, at the edges of ponds, and areas in which it may naturalize.

Maintenance: After blooming, remove the flower stalks and divide the rhizomes as needed. (Rhizomes are modified stems running underground horizontally. They strike new roots out of their nodes, down into the soil.) Wear gloves when handling the rhizomes; they are poisonous. Trim the leaves back to 1 inch above the crown after the first frost.

Inlet side of rain garden – SUNNY AREA or SHADE

Juncus Effusus (Soft Rush) - grows to 1-4'



Habitat: Boggy, wet soil, such as the area near a pond margin or in a wet rain garden, provides the

best soil conditions for juncus plants. Soft rush can tolerate periodic drying out followed by flooding, making it suitable for rain gardens. It tolerates wet soil that is rich in organic matter. Fertilization isn't usually necessary.

Maintenance: Juncus sets seed in late summer and dies back in winter in cooler climates. Trimming off the seed heads when they begin to form prevents the plants from spreading via seed. Cut back the old, ragged foliage of soft rush in early spring. Before pruning, wipe the pruning shears with a cloth soaked in isopropyl alcohol to prevent the spread of disease organisms. Trim out damaged or dead leaves any time of year to improve the appearance.

Juncus effusus Spiralis (Corkscrew rush) – SUNNY AREA



Most maintenance for the plant is purely aesthetic. If corkscrew rush dies down in the winter, room for new growth is made by pulling up and discarding the old, dead stems. Leaving the old stems will not harm the new growth, but it can become messy. Beware, this spreads through underground roots and can take over. You can confine it in a pot, or dig out some of the rhizomes each year to avoid overpopulation.

Inlet side of rain garden – SHADE

Chasmanthium latifolium (River Oats) - grows to 2.5'



Habitat: River oats is a low maintenance perennial shade grass that is used for erosion control along stream beds. It enjoys partial sun / dappled sun and remember to apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. This plant tends to bloom in early summer.

Maintenance: Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant stems. If foliage is left in place over winter, cut back in early spring.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SUN

Asclepias incarnata (Swamp Milkweed) – grows to 2' – 5'



Habitat: Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is an erect, clump-forming, U.S. native plant indigenous to swamps, bottomlands and wet meadows. It makes a great choice for planting in moist spots such as in rain gardens and along stream/pond banks. The flowers of swamp milkweed attract several species of butterflies including Monarchs. Monarch larvae (caterpillars) prefer swamp milkweed foliage for a nourishing food source. It may also attract bees.

Maintenance: Water well until established. It develops a deep tap rootsystem which is best left undisturbed once established. Swamp milkweed has no serious insect or disease problems and deer generally leave milkweeds alone. There is no need to prune the plant though you may “pinch-prune” if the plant starts to look ragged. This may delay flower appearance. If it begins to show signs of attack from aphids, spray with a non-toxic horticultural soap solution.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SUN

Caltha pulustris (Marsh Marigold) - grows to 1-2'



Habitat: Found in marshes, swamps, and wet meadows from North Carolina to Alaska, Marsh Marigold is at home at pond's edge or along a stream. It is clumping by nature, but can seed in to form a dense groundcover in a consistently moist site.

Maintenance: Since it likes moisture be aware that the entire plant can die to the ground by mid-summer if it is dry. Since this is a perennial do not worry if it goes dormant ... it should return the next year. It spreads itself by seed (seed pods appear after blossoms are spent). Seed pods burst open and seeds flow on wet surface until they deposit themselves to spring up next year. Deer tend to leave this plant alone.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SUN

Panicum virgatum ‘Heavy Metal’ (Switch Grass) – grows to 2-3’



Habitat: Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun. It prefers moist, sandy or clay soils and tolerates occasional flooding. Generally performs best in full sun. Grows primarily in clumps.

Maintenance: Cut back clumps to the ground in late winter to early spring. Plant will slowly spread by slightly creeping rhizomes. Plants may self-seed in optimum growing conditions but self-seeding cultivars may not do well. No serious insect or disease problems. Deer tend to avoid.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SUN

Viburnum dentatum 'Blue Muffin' (Arrowwood Viburnum) - grows to 3'-5'



Habitat: A multi-stemmed shrub, Blue Muffin Viburnum is blanketed in creamy white flat-top flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. The powder blue fruits are held in abundance in spectacular clusters from early to late fall. The forest green foliage stays throughout summer and turns deep purple in the fall. This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade.

Maintenance: Not particularly attractive to deer, this shrub attracts birds. It should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Removing damaged, dead or diseased branches can be done at any time of the year and remove any branches, that cross over other branches.(On windy days these could rub against one another, creating abrasions through which pests and disease organisms can cause harm to the plant.)

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SHADE

Carex stricta (Tussock Sedge) – grows to 2'-3'



Habitat: *Carex stricta* is a common sedge that grows well in wet low spots, water margins and areas that experience some seasonal flooding. It is one of the most elegant, fine textured sedges and gracefully arches giving it the appearance of fountain grass. It will form dense tussocks of its dead leaves at its base. It tolerates shady conditions. The sedge spreads by rhizomes to form large colonies.

Maintenance: No specific disease or pest problems. The sedge is not palatable to deer. To keep your garden “natural” retain the straw colored old leaves because they filter and clarify water. If you wish, for aesthetic reasons, the foliage can be cut to the ground in early spring before new growth is initiated.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SHADE

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Scarletta' (Fetterbush or drooping laurel) - grows to 3'-4'



Habitat: Best grown in moist, acidic, organically rich, cool, sandy to clay, well-drained loams in part shade. Tolerates full shade but does not tolerate drought or windy conditions. Particularly noted for its excellent year round foliage: (a) bright scarlet new growth in spring, (b) excellent glossy deep green foliage in summer, (c) burgundy red fall color that becomes bronze to purplish red in winter

Maintenance: No specific disease or pest problems. Leaf spot can cause significant problems to the foliage in areas with poor air circulation.

Lower area (bowl) of rain garden – SHADE

Packera aurea (previously Scenecio aureus) (Golden Groundsel) – grows to 12”-16”



Habitat: Easily grown in average, medium to wet soils. Blooms well in shady locations. Soils should not be allowed to dry out. Features flat-topped clusters of yellow, daisy-like flowers in early spring.

Maintenance: No serious insect or disease problems. Freely self-seeds and is easily grown from seed. Naturalizes into large colonies in optimum growing conditions. Remove flowering stems after bloom/seed dispersal.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SUN

Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed) – grows to 12"- 24"



Habitat: *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly weed, is a species of milkweed native to eastern North America. It is commonly known as butterfly weed because of the butterflies that are attracted to the plant by its color and its copious production of nectar. It is also a larval food plant of queen and monarch butterflies. Hummingbirds, bees and other insects are also attracted to it. Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun.

Maintenance: No serious insect or disease problems. Crown rot can be a problem in wet, poorly drained soils. Susceptible to rust and leaf spot. No need to deadhead blooms when they are spent, as seeds will disperse from them. Plant dies down completely to the ground at end of growing season.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SUN or SHADE

Iris cristata (Dwarf Crested Iris) - grows to 6"-8"



Habitat: *Iris cristata*, commonly called dwarf crested iris, is a low-growing, rapidly spreading plant that. It features pale blue, lilac or lavender iris flowers with gold crests on the falls. Prefers rich, well-drained soils in full to partial shade. If grown in full sun, the soil must remain consistently moist.

Maintenance: These require hardly any care. In fact, they pretty much take care of themselves. They can be bothered by slugs and iris borers.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SUN

***Liatis spicata* 'Kobold' (Gayfeather) – grows to 24"-20"**



Habitat: *Liatis spicata* is a medium-tall plant, with showy spikes of purple flowers, that looks great as part of a border. It is often grown for its deer-resistant properties, and to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to the garden. Plants should be located in sun and have well-drained soil.

Maintenance: Seeds are easiest sown in the autumn since they require cold to germinate. Plants do not tolerate standing water or soggy soil. Plants can be propagated by division of tuberous roots in spring. They are not usually susceptible to pests or diseases. Cutback to ground during winter. .

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SUN

Phlox subulata (Creeping Phlox) - grows to 2"-4"



Habitat: Among the earliest blooming perennials, phlox subulata will create a carpet of brilliant color in spring and comes in red, blue, white, or pink. It requires a sunny spot in your garden and good drainage is essential.

Maintenance: Plants will tolerate deer, but watch out for rabbits. Cut creeping phlox back to one-third to one-half of its height after flowering every year, using clippers or a mower set on high level. Cutting creeping phlox back will encourage new growth, reduce pests, and keep the plant bushy and healthy. Lay a few evergreen boughs over the creeping phlox during the coldest days of winter if you live in a northern climate with very cold winters. The boughs from a Christmas tree work very well.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SUN

Solidago sphacelata 'Golden Fleece' (Dwarf Goldenrod) – grows to 18"-24"



Habitat: Easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun. Prefers somewhat fertile soils. Tolerates poor, dry soils. Flowers are attractive to bees and butterflies.

Maintenance: This somewhat weedy species that can rapidly colonize an area by both creeping rhizomes and self-seeding. Remove spent flower clusters to encourage additional bloom and prevent seed pod from forming. No serious insect or disease problems. Susceptible to powdery mildew and leaf spot.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SHADE

Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern) – grows to 2'



Habitat: They prefer light to full shade, although in most northern states can take a lot of sun. The richer the soil, the larger they grow.

Maintenance: These long lived plants are so tough that you can transplant them almost any time that the ground isn't frozen! Rabbit and deer resistant these ferns do attract butterflies. No serious insect or disease problems. Crown rot in poorly drained soils can be a problem. Divide rhizomes in spring.

Berm/Edge of rain garden – SHADE

Sedum ternatum (Sedum or 3-leaved stonecrop) – grows to 6”



Habitat: Small, spreading, native perennial which typically occurs in damp locations along stream banks, bluff bases and stony ledges (as in stonecrop). Tolerates part shade and moist soils better than most other sedums.

Maintenance: No serious insect or disease problems. Although it spreads by creeping stems, any unwanted plants are easy to remove.

Inlet or Berm/Edge of rain garden – SHADE

Chelone Glabra (White Turtlehead) – grows to 2'



Habitat: Occurs in moist woods, swampy areas and along streams. Best grown in moist to wet, rich, humusy soils in part shade.

Maintenance: Appreciates a good composted leaf mulch. Consider pinching back the stem ends in spring to reduce mature plant height, otherwise may require staking. Slowly spreads by rhizomes. No serious insect or disease problems. Some susceptibility to mildew.