“Ornamental” and Native Plants for the Rain Garden

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Rain Garden Native Plants

- Bald Cypress
- Blue Flag Iris
- Cardinal Flower
“Ornamental” Plants for the Rain Garden

- Check references for tolerance of wet and dry conditions.
- Consider using cultivars of native plants.
- Place in the appropriate area of the rain garden.
Rain Gardens

Your Rain Garden is composed of woody plants (trees and shrubs) and herbaceous species (flowers, grasses, and ground covers) planted in three wetness zones.

- The lowest zone supports plant species that can tolerate standing water and fluctuating water levels.
- The middle zone is slightly drier, but also supports plant species that can tolerate fluctuating water levels.
- The outer edge or highest zone generally contains plant species that prefer drier conditions.
Native Plants for the Ponding Area

National Wetland Indicators

• Obligate Wetland nearly always occur in wetlands under natural conditions

Blue Flag Iris

Swamp Rose Mallow
Trees and Shrubs for the Ponding Area

- River Birch
- Bald Cypress
- Arborvitae
  - Needs moisture, but good drainage
- Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle
  - Diervilla lonicera
- Spice Bush
  - Lindera benzoin

Bald Cypress

Spice Bush
Perennials and Ornamental Grasses for the Ponding Area

- Maiden Hair Fern
- Lady Fern
- Karl Foerster’s Feather Reed Grass

- Copper Iris
  - Iris fulva
  - Note some Iris do not do well in wet conditions, check your references!

- Liatris
  - ‘Meadow Blazing Star’
  - ‘Prairie Blazing Star’
  - Dense Blazing Star’
Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area

- **Facultative Wetland**
  - Plants that usually occur in wetlands (67 - 99% of the time) but are occasionally found in non-wetlands.

- **Examples: Ironweed, Red Osier Dogwood, Pussy Willow**

  - [New York Ironweed](#)
  - [Pussy Willow](#)
  - [Red Osier Dogwood](#)
Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area

National Wetland Indicators

• Facultative
  – Plants that are likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands and are found in wetlands 34 – 66% of the time.

• Examples
  – Little Bluestem, Obedient Plant, Sweet Pepper Bush or Summersweet
Native Plants for the Ponding or Depression Area

Little Bluestem

Obedient Plant

Sweet Pepper Bush or Summersweet
Trees and Shrubs for the Depression Area

- Creeping Juniper
- Shrub Rose Cultivars
- Spiraea
  - ‘Anthony Waterer’
- Snowberry or Coral Berry
  - Symphoricarpos ‘Hancock’
- Sweet Bay Magnolia
  - Magnolia virginiana
Perennials for the Depression Area

- Moonshine Yarrow
- Columbine
- Asters
  - ‘Purple Dome’
  - ‘Aromatic’
  - ‘Purple Daisy’
- Coreopsis
  - Threadleaf-Tickseed, Coreopsis verticillata
- Daylillies
- Hostas

Coreopsis
Plants for the Berm Area

National Wetland Indicator

• Facultative Upland
  – Plants that usually occur in non-wetlands (from 67 -99% of the time), but are occasionally found in wetlands (from 1 to 33%) of the time.

• Examples
  – False Blue Indigo, Blackhaw Viburnum, Eastern Redbud
Plants for the Depression or Berm Area

- **False Blue Indigo**
- **Eastern Redbud**
- **Blackhaw Viburnum**
Native Plants for the Berm Area

National Wetland Indicators

• Upland
  - Plants that almost always (more than 99%) of the time occur in non-wetlands under natural conditions

• Examples
  - Monarda, Rudbeckia, Panicum
“Ornamentals” for the Berm Area

- Witch Hazels
  - Corylus

- Gaillardia grandiflora

- Bleeding Heart
  - Dicentra spectabilis

- Russian Sage
  - Perovskia atriplicifolia

- Peony

- Shasta Daisy
Things to consider when designing a rain garden……..

- Mature size of plants
- Vehicle traffic
- Seasonal color
- Attracting beneficials or butterflies
Enjoy Designing your Rain Garden!
Photo Credits

- Liatris: [www.botany.wisc.edu/images/liatris_lg.jpg](www.botany.wisc.edu/images/liatris_lg.jpg)
- Creeping Juniper: [www.hort.uconn.edu/.../vermont/11/14/14.jpg](www.hort.uconn.edu/.../vermont/11/14/14.jpg)
- Spicebush: [www.yosemite.ca.us/.../images/17f.jpg](www.yosemite.ca.us/.../images/17f.jpg) [www.nycgovparks.org](www.nycgovparks.org)
- Sweet Bay Magnolia: [www.washington.edu/.../graphics/74swmag.jpg](www.washington.edu/.../graphics/74swmag.jpg)
- Coreopsis: [www.hsl.unc.edu/.../Images/coreopsis063006.JPG](www.hsl.unc.edu/.../Images/coreopsis063006.JPG)
- Bleeding Heart: [www.nycgovparks.org](www.nycgovparks.org)
Photo Credits


• Redosier Dogwood: R.A. Howard @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Photo Credits


• Obedient Plant: Bill Summers @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1989. *Midwest wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species.* Midwest National Technical Center, Lincoln
Photo Credits

- Baptisia: G.A. Cooper @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database
- Redbud: Jeff McMillian @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database