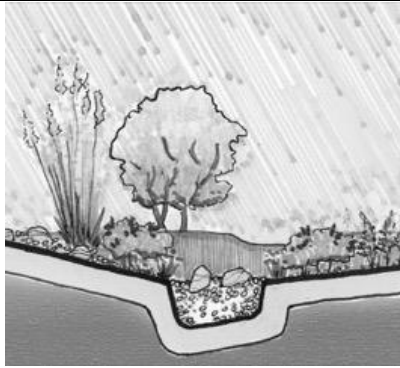


Plants for Rain Gardens

Recommended for Coastal Southeast Landscapes



Soil conditions in rain gardens alternate between wet and dry, making them tough places for many plants to grow. The plants in this file are adapted to these conditions, though some plants will tolerate more moisture than others.

Each plant is marked according to its flooding tolerance, with 'H' being tolerant of longer flooding, 'M' only tolerating brief flooding, and 'L' indicate plants that tolerant extended drought once established. See key for more information.

All of the listed plants are native to the southeastern United States in wetland habitats and most are readily available at local nurseries. Wetland plants can generally grow well in moist or well-drained soils, whereas plants adapted to dry soils rarely survive in soggy conditions. How wet a rain garden stays will vary considerably depending on the site where it is installed. Rain gardens created on sandy soils will rarely hold water for more than a few hours. On these sites it is most important to choose plants for their drought tolerance. Rain gardens created on loamy or silty soils could pond water for 1-2 days (if your site ponds water for more than 3 days, you should consider creating a wetland). On these sites, choosing plants tolerant of extended flooding is critical to success.

Remember you are not limited to planting just within the excavated area! Extending plantings around this area will help the rain garden to blend in with the overall landscape. Any plants adapted to the site conditions can be used outside of the excavated area.

KEY TO PLANT LIST

1. Plants marked 'L' can withstand considerable drought of 3-4 weeks without rainfall (establishment taking 1 year for perennials, 1-2 years for trees and shrubs)
2. Plants marked 'M' that grow best in moist to average soils and will only tolerate short periods (1-2 days) of flooding.
3. Plants marked 'H' will tolerate longer periods of flooding (3-5 days), but will also grow in moist to average soils.

Trees

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Deciduous (D)/Evergreen (E)	Height (ft)	Exposure
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	M	D	40-60	Sun-pt. shade
Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	M	D	10-20	Pt. shade
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	H-L	D	40-70	Sun-pt. shade
Ironwood/Muscle wood	<i>Carpinus carolinana</i>	H-L	D	20-30	Sun-pt. shade
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	M, L	D	15-30	Pt. shade
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	M, L	D	12-20	Sun-pt. shade
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	H	D	50-60	Sun
Dahoon holly	<i>Ilex cassine</i>	M, L	E	20-30	Sun
Possumhaw	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	H-L	D	20-30	Sun-pt. shade
American holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	M, L	E	30-60	Sun
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	L	E	30-40	Sun
Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	M, L	E	40-80	Sun
Sweetbay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	H	E	10-60	Pt. shade-shade
Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	M	D	40-60	Sun-pt. shade
Devilwood	<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>	M, L	E	15-25	Pt. shade
Longleaf pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>	M, L	E	80-100	Sun
Swamp laurel oak	<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	H	E	65-80	Sun
Nuttall oak	<i>Quercus nuttallii</i>	M, L	D	40-60	Sun
Willow oak	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	M, L	D	60-80	Sun
Willow	<i>Salix babylonica</i>	H	D	30-50	Sun
Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	H-L	D	50-100	Sun

Shrubs

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Deciduous (D)/Evergreen (E)	Height (ft)	Exposure
Florida leucothoe	<i>Agarista populifolia</i>	M	E	8-12	Pt. shade
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	H, L	D	6-10	Sun-pt. shade
Beautyberry	<i>Callicarpa americana</i>	M	D	3-10	Sun
Sweetshrub	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	M	D	6-9	Pt. shade-shade
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	H, M	D	6-10	Sun-pt. shade
Pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	M	D	4-10	Sun-pt. shade
Strawberry bush	<i>Euonymus americanus</i>	M, L	D	4-6	Pt shade
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenia</i>	M	D	3-5	Sun-pt. shade
Inkberry	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	M	E	6-8	Sun-pt. shade
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	H	D	6-15	Sun-pt. shade
Yaupon holly	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	L	E	10-20	Sun
Florida anise shrub	<i>Illicium floridanum</i>	H	E	8-10	Pt. shade
Anise shrub	<i>Illicium parviflorum</i>	M, L	E	7-14	Sun-pt. shade
Virginia sweetspire	<i>Itea virginica</i>	H, L	D	3-6	Sun-pt. shade
Doghobble/Coastal leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe axillaris</i>	H, M	E	2-4	Pt. shade-shade
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	M	D	6-12	Sun-pt. shade
Wax myrtle	<i>Morella cerifera</i>	M, L	E	6-12	Sun
Dwarf palmetto	<i>Sabal minor</i>	H	E	6-10	Sun
Possumhaw/Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	H	D	6-10	Sun-pt. shade

Perennials

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Exposure
Climbing aster	<i>Ampelaster carolinianus</i>	H	Sun-pt. shade
Blue star	<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> ; <i>A. tabernaemontana</i>	H-L	Sun-pt. shade
Lady fern	<i>Athyrium felix-femina</i>	M	Pt. shade-shade
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	L	Sun
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	H, M	Sun-pt. shade
Falso indigo	<i>Baptisia</i> sp.	M, L	Sun
Boltonia	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	H	Sun
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	H	Sun-pt. shade
Green and Gold	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	M	Pt. shade
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis lanceolate</i>	L	Sun
Swamp coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>	M	Sun
Joe pye weed	<i>Eutrochium dubium</i>	H, M	Sun-pt. shade
Swamp sunflower	<i>Helianthus angustifolius</i>	H	Sun
Texas star	<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>	H	Sun
Swamp mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	H	Sun
Blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	H	Sun-pt. shade
Seashore mallow	<i>Kosteletskya virginica</i>	H	Sun
Gayfeather	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	M	Sun-pt. shade
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	H	Pt. shade
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	H	Pt. shade-shade
Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	H	Pt. shade-shade
Garden phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	M, L	Sun
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia</i> sp.	H-L	Sun
Green headed coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	H	Sun
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> sp.	M, L	Sun
Stokes' aster	<i>Stokesia laevis</i>	M	Sun-pt. shade
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia novaboracensis</i>	H	Sun
Verbena	<i>Verbena canadensis</i>	M, L	Sun

Ornamental Grasses & Sedges

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>	Water Use Zone	Exposure
Lurid sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>	H	Sun
Fringed sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>	H	Sun
Southern waxy sedge	<i>Carex glaucescens</i>	H	Sun
White topped sedge	<i>Rhynchospora latifolia</i>	H	Sun
River Oats*	<i>Chasmanthum latifolium</i>	H-L	Sun-Shade
<u>Muhly Grass*</u>	<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	M, L	Sun
<u>Blue sand switchgrass</u>	<i>Panicum amarum</i>	L	Sun
<u>Panic Grass*</u>	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	M, L	Sun

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For More Information on Rain Gardens

"**Backyard Rain Garden**," a Program of the NC Cooperative Extension, has mounted a colorful and informative pamphlet on how to build a Backyard Rain Garden at forsyth.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/RGmanual2015.pdf?fwd=no

"**Wetland Plants for Coastal NC**" at brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Plants-for-Backyard-Wetlands.pdf?fwd=no

NC Cooperative Extension Plant Database
plants.ces.ncsu.edu/

NC Cooperative Extension Gardening Portal
 for all your garden, lawn and landscape needs:
gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/

VISIT US IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY!

**Brunswick County Cooperative Extension
& Botanical Garden**

Brunswick County Government Complex

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Bolivia, NC 28422

(910) 253-2610

brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

**NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**



Brunswick Botanical Garden & Information Hotline

To see plants that grow in Coastal Southeast NC, visit the **Brunswick Botanical Garden** behind the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension (BCCES) Offices. It is free and open daylight hours, 7 days a week. The garden and associated programs are managed by CES horticultural staff in conjunction with trained Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

For questions about plant selection and maintenance, lawn care, vegetable gardening, plant disease and pest problems, visit or call the BCCES **Information Hotline**. Staffed by trained Extension Master Gardener Volunteers under the supervision of Extension Horticulture staff, the Hotline is open from 9:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. when offices are open.

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