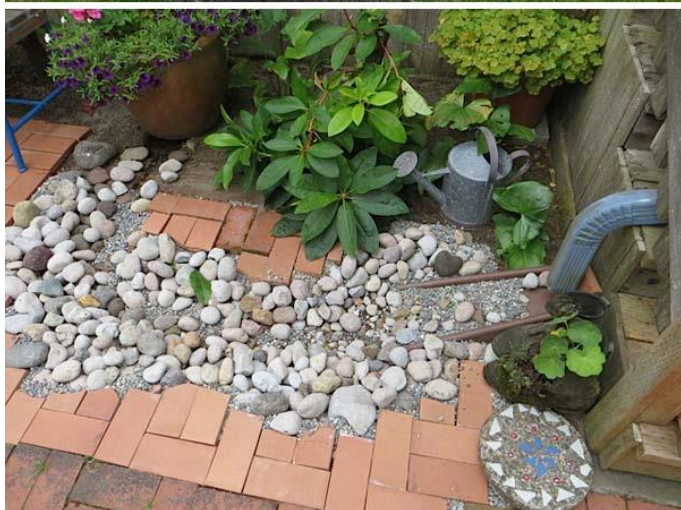


Rain Garden Landscaping



Amy Mead
Area Natural Resources Agent



Plant Selection



- Plants selected to help remove pollutants
- Slow water movement and infiltrate
- Transpiration
- Soil Stabilization
- Support wildlife
- Aesthetically beautiful!

Plants suitable for rain gardens...

- Tolerate periods of standing water, saturated soil, but also need to grow under very dry conditions
- Low maintenance
- Do not require fertilization or irrigation once established



Plants not suitable for rain gardens...

- Do not tolerate “wet feet”
- Are susceptible to root rot (e.g. Azaleas)
- Not drought tolerant
- Invasive Plants-
ncwildflower.org/invasives/list.htm



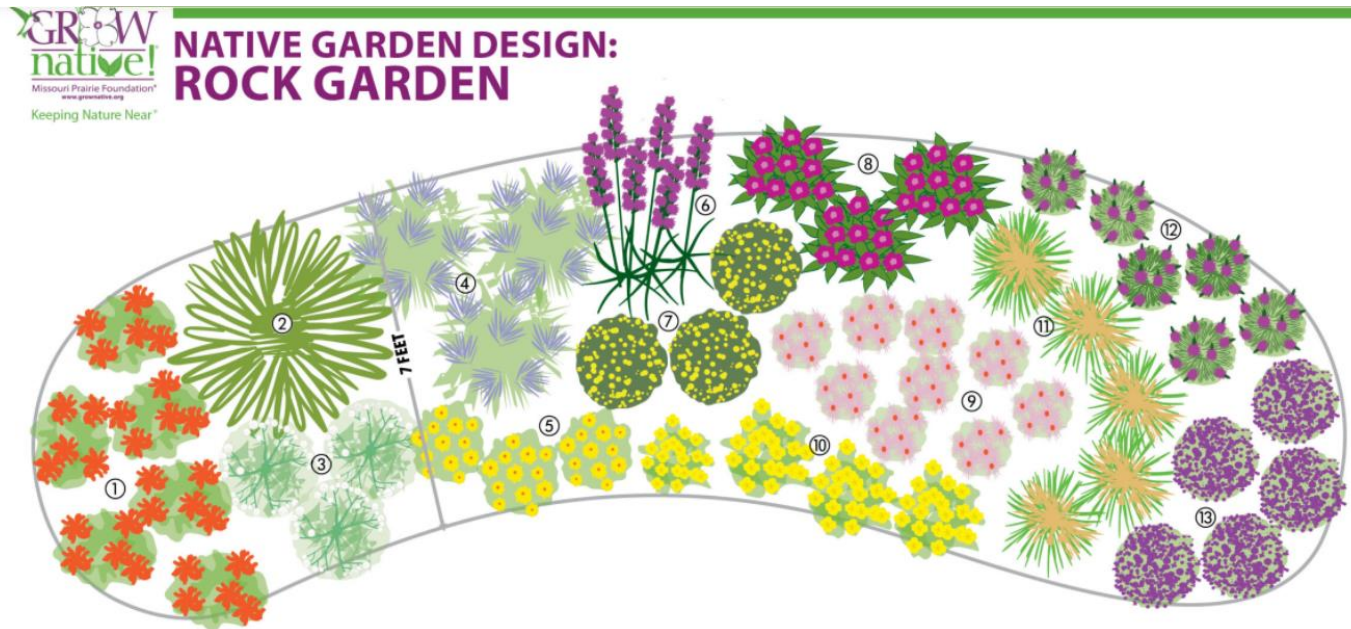
Design Considerations



- Avoid the “orphan” garden look
- If a rain garden is going to be “on its own,” make it large enough to be a landscape feature
- Design with maintenance in mind

Rain Garden Planting Design

- Rain Gardens can be any shape
- Work with the contour of your site
- Groups of odd numbers (3, 5 etc) look best rather than one of everything
- Generally, taller plants in the back or middle





Inkberry

Ilex glabra

Evergreen shrub

Slow growing, 5-8' tall

Tolerates a variety of
soils, moderately salt
tolerant

Cover and food for birds
and pollinators enjoy
flowers



Debbie Roos

Dwarf cultivar:
'Shamrock'
3-4' tall



Sweetspire

Itea virginica

Semi-evergreen shrub

Up to 8' tall

Early summer blooming
with beautiful fall color

Flowers attract
butterflies and seeds for
songbirds

- 'Henry's Garnet'





Beautyberry

Callicarpa americana

3-8' tall, Full sun

Deciduous Shrub

Fruits appear August-Oct
Valuable food source for
songbirds and small
mammals



Sweet Pepperbush

Clethra alnifolia

Deciduous shrub, 5-10' tall

Blooms in July/August

Good as a screen,
specimen, or border

Attractive to pollinators

Fruits eaten by wildlife



'Ruby Spice'



'Sixteen Candles'



Dwarf Palmetto

Sabal minor

2-5' tall, diverse habitats

Drought and moderately salt tolerant

Most cold hardy native palm

Fruits eaten by robins, raccoons, and other birds and mammals

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

2' tall, Vigorous, long rooted grass

Good for erosion control:
Stream banks, slopes,
rain gardens

Larval host plant for
skippers, seeds eaten by
birds

Cut back in March





Jim RobbinsCC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Cultivar 'Northwind'

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

3-5' tall, full sun

Moist clay or sandy soils

Bluish cast in the summer, pink flowers in fall

Slightly salt tolerant

Plant in masses



Muhly Grass

Muhlenbergia capillaris

4' tall, 3' wide

Long-lived, little to no insect or disease pests and highly resistant to deer grazing

Tolerates heat, humidity, drought, poor soil and is highly salt tolerant





River Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

2-4' tall

Attractive, drooping seed heads

Easily grown in moist to well-drained soils

Highly deer resistant

Larval host plant



Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum incanum

2-3' tall

Silvery white leaves
beneath flowers

Can help with erosion

Drought tolerant

Can spread aggressively



Spotted Horsemint

Monarda punctata

2-4' tall

Herbaceous perennial

Drought tolerant

Excellent cut flower

Deer and rabbit resistant



Purple Coneflower

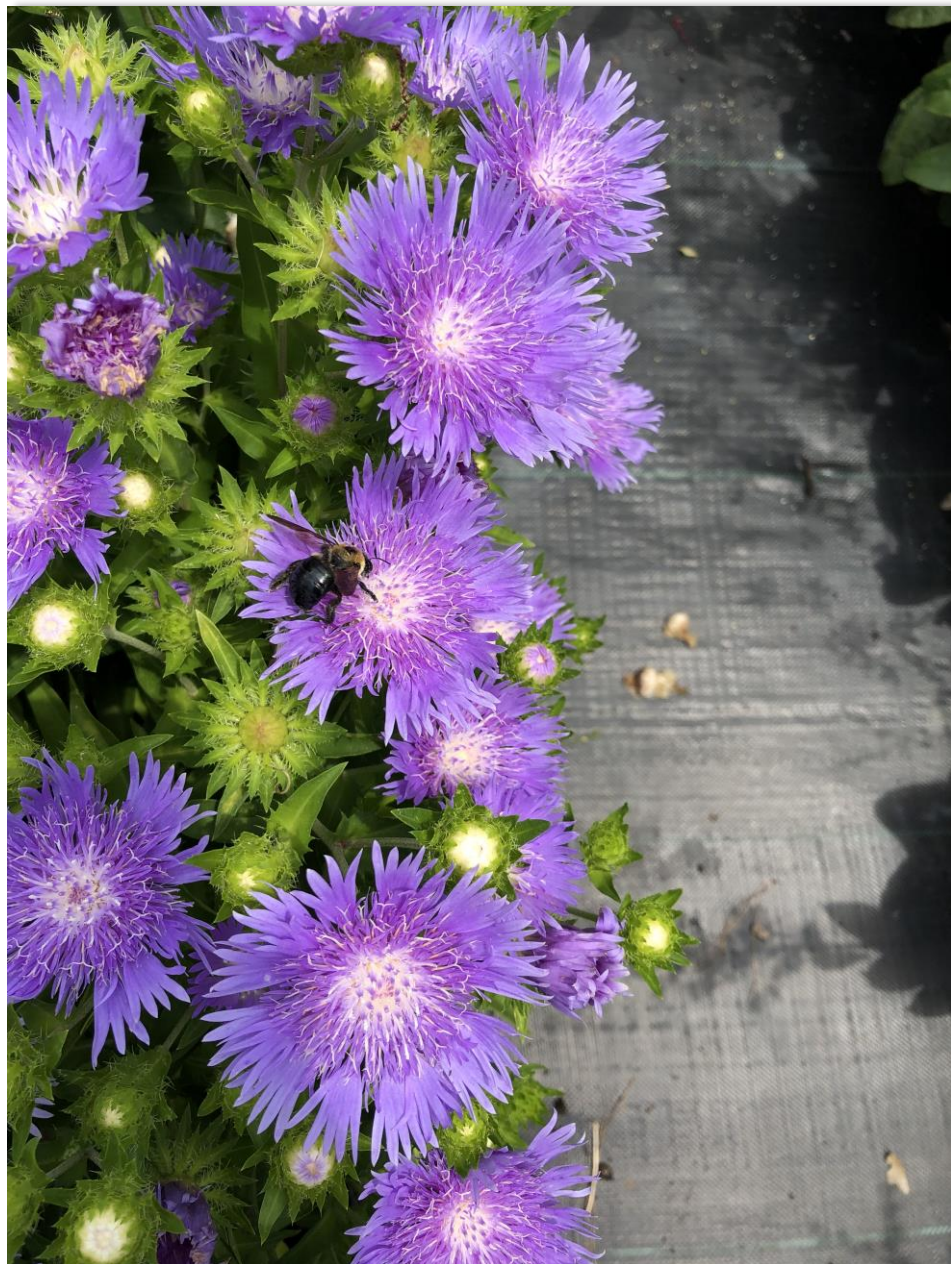
Echinacea purpurea

2-3' tall

Blooms summer through fall

Leave seed heads for birds, especially goldfinches

Deer Resistant



Stokes' Aster

Stokesia laevis

1-2' tall

Leaves persist through winter

Blooms in the summer

Full sun to part shade

'Peachie's Pick'



Coastal Plain Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium dubium

Grows easily in moist to sandy soils in full sun to part shade

Blooms summer through fall

‘Little Joe’ Dwarf Cultivar

Deer Resistant



Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Good for heat, drought tolerant, long blooming

Short lived perennial, reseeds easily

Blooms in spring through mid-fall.

More compact and shorter than brown-eyed susan.



Brown-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia triloba

Good for heat, drought tolerant, long blooming

Short lived perennial, reseeds easily

Smaller more numerous blooms than black-eyed susans. Flowers later over longer period.

Good cut flower



Blue Mistflower

Conoclinium coelestinum

Blooms late summer
through fall, nectar rich

“Hardy Ageratum”

Blooms along roadsides and
ditches

Spreads aggressively by
rhizomes and seeds



Butterfly Weed

Asclepias tubarosa

Moderately salt tolerant

Drought tolerant, can grow in sandy, poor soils

2-3 years to establish by seed, Does not transplant well

Larval host plant-
Monarch





Blanket Flower

Gaillardia pulchella

Barrier island, sandy
soils, full sun

Drought and salt tolerant

Blooms summer to fall

Attracts butterflies

Golden Alexander

Zizia aurea

Family: Apiaceae

Likes wetter soils and
partial sun

Attracts butterflies and
bees



Debbie Roos





Rattlesnake Master

Eryngium yuccifolium

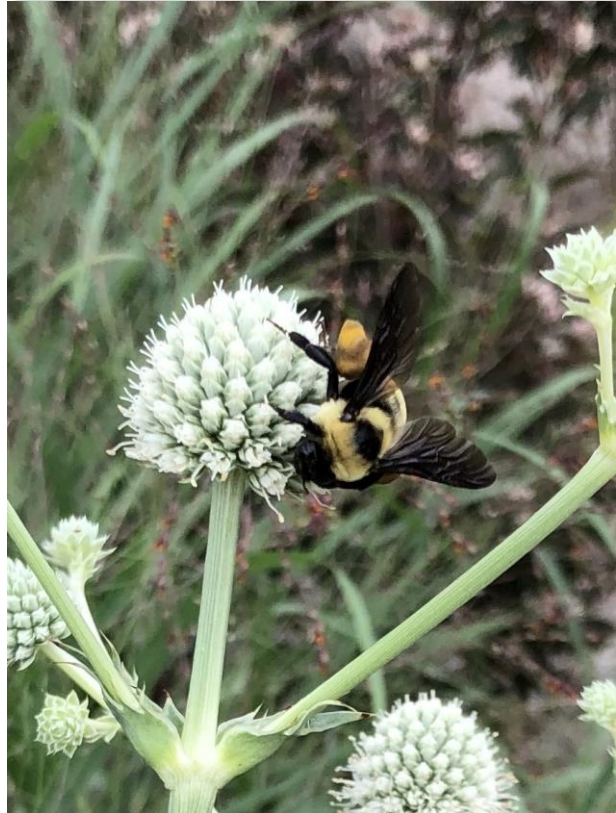
Family: Apiaceae

Extremely drought
tolerant

Attracts pollinator insects,
especially small butterflies

Rattlesnake Master

Planted in mass.





Blazing Star

Liatris spicata

Grows 3-5' in Full sun,
tolerates heat and humidity

Blooms from the top down

Clump forming, looks best
planted in masses

Very attractive to bees and
butterflies and seeds eaten
by goldfinches



Seashore Mallow

Kosteletzkya pentacarpos

Moderately salt tolerant

Grows near brackish to nearly freshwater

Blooms last for one day

Blooms from July –Oct

Hummingbirds, butterflies



Scarlet Rose Mallow

Hibiscus coccineus

Herbaceous perennial

6' tall

Very attractive to
butterflies, hummingbirds,
bees

Tolerates wet soil



Shallow Sedge (SL)

Carex lurida

1-3' tall

Full sun to part shade

Foliage is bright green
and grows in a cascading
clump

Interesting seed heads in
the spring



Rushes

Juncus spp.

12-36" tall

Prefer full sun, Can
remain evergreen

Late summer blooming
flowers



Southern Blue Flag Iris

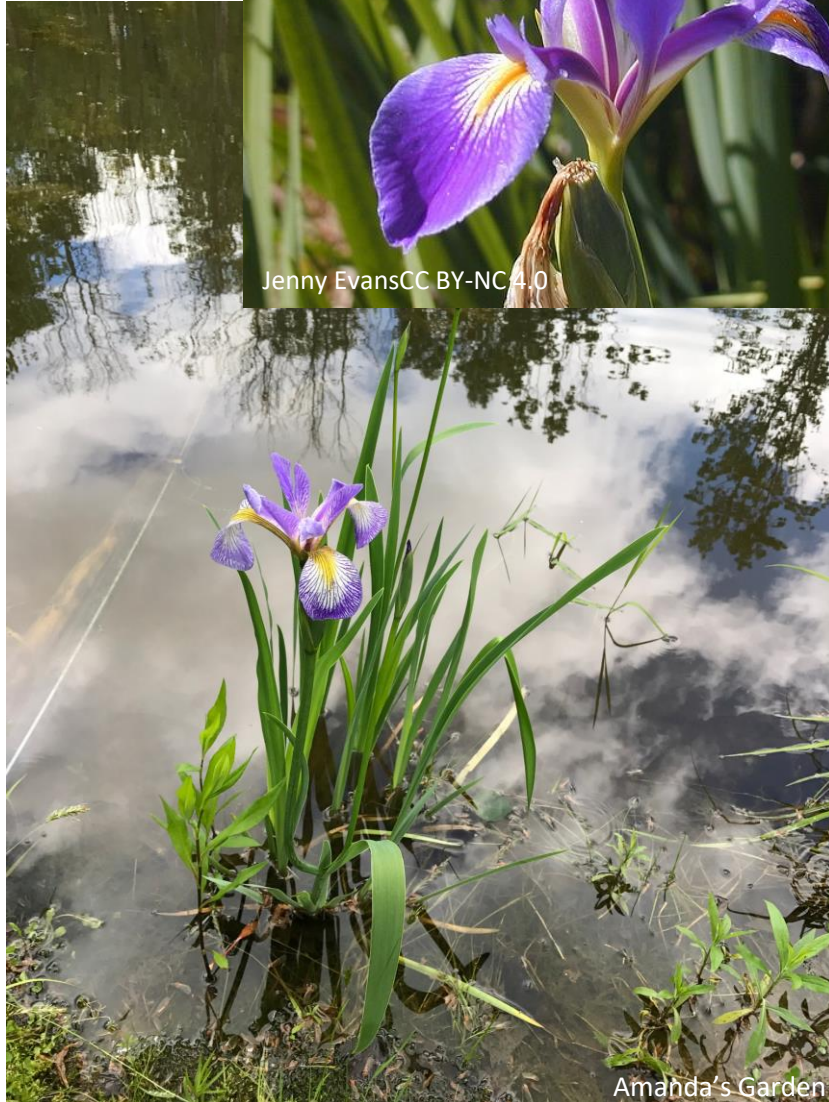
Iris virginica

2-2.5' tall

Spreads by rhizome and can
be divided as clumps form

Can be planted in water up
to 6" deep

Deer resistant and not
susceptible to disease





Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

4-5' tall

Flowers begin opening at bottom of a terminal flower spike

Adds late summer bloom

Named after red robes worn by Roman Catholic cardinals.



Sedum

Over 300 species

Succulent perennial herb

Tall and low growing
species

Deer like them

Attracts bees and birds



Goldenrod

Solidago



Flowers July-September

Confused with Ragweed

Spreads by seed and rhizomes

Deer resistant

Attracts butterflies and bees



Phlox

3-6 inches for Phlox *subulate*

5' for Phlox *paniculata*

Semi-woody perennial,
but a few are annuals

Abundant blooms and
light fragrance

Attracts butterflies,
moths, hummingbirds,
and small mammals.

Need more plant info?

Plants Database

<http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/>

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Display:

Cultural Conditions

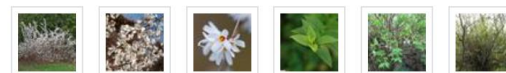
- ☒ Light
- ☒ Soil Texture
- ☒ Soil pH
- ☒ Soil Drainage
- ☒ Available Space To Plant
- ☒ NC Region
- ☒ USDA Plant Hardiness Zone

Landscape

- ☒ Landscape Location
- ☒ Landscape Theme
- ☒ Design Feature

Abeliophyllum distichum

Korean Abelia, Korean abelialeaf, Korean abeliophyllum, Miseonnamu, White Forsythia



Abelmoschus esculentus

Ladies' Fingers, Ochro, Okra



Abelmoschus manihot

Hibiscus Manihot, Muskmallow, Sunset Huskmallow, Tropic Jewel Hibiscus



Abies alba

Common Silver Fir, European Silver Fir, Silver Fir

4 Cultivars/Varieties



Maintenance

- Water to establish plants
- No fertilizer should be necessary
- Refresh mulch annually
- Weed Regularly
- Keep garden healthy and clean

