## Residential Rain Garden Design Guidelines

Prepared September 2014  
PWD | URS | Viridian Landscape Studio

### Scientific Name  
Common Name  
Moisture Preference  
Sun/Shade Preference  
Height  
Width  
Recommended Plug/Plant Spacing  
Planting Area in Rain Garden

#### Herbaceous Perennials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Moisture Preference</th>
<th>Sun/Shade Preference</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Recommended Plug/Plant Spacing</th>
<th>Planting Area in Rain Garden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acorus americanus</td>
<td>Sweetflag</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>2'-3'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hibiscus moscheutos</td>
<td>Swamp Mallow</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3'-4'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris versicolor</td>
<td>Blue Flag Iris</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun to Partial Shade</td>
<td>2'-3'</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobelia cardinalis</td>
<td>Cardinal Flower</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun to Partial Shade</td>
<td>2'-4'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mimulus ringens</td>
<td>Monkey Flower</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun to Partial Shade</td>
<td>1'-3'</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verna novaeboracensis</td>
<td>New York Ironweed</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>4'-6'</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eupatorium dubium 'Little Joe'</td>
<td>Deer Joe PEE Weed</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3'-4'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Wettest Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helium sp.</td>
<td>Sneezeweed</td>
<td>Moist to Wet</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>18-40'</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>Perimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aler novae-angliae</td>
<td>New England Astar</td>
<td>Moist to Dry</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>1'-2'</td>
<td>30'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Perimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helianthus sp.</td>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>Average to Dry</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>4'-6'</td>
<td>30'</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>Outermost Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verna glauca</td>
<td>Upland Ironweed</td>
<td>Average to Dry</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>3'-5'</td>
<td>36'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Outermost Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelanchier hubrichtii</td>
<td>Thread-leaf Blue Star</td>
<td>Average to Dry</td>
<td>Sun to Partial Shade</td>
<td>2'-3'</td>
<td>30'</td>
<td>18'</td>
<td>Outermost Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eragrostis spectabilis</td>
<td>Purple Love Grass</td>
<td>Average to Dry</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>24'</td>
<td>30'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Outermost Edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echinacea purpurea</td>
<td>Purple Coneflower</td>
<td>Average to Dry</td>
<td>Sun to Partial Shade</td>
<td>2'-3'</td>
<td>18'-24'</td>
<td>12'</td>
<td>Outermost Edge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Shrubs:

- **Aronia melanocarpa**  
  Black Chokeberry  
  Moist to Wet  
  Sun to Partial Shade  
  4'-10'  
  3'-6'  
  Wettest Area

#### Trees:

- **Betula nigra**  
  River Birch  
  Moist to Wet  
  30'-60'  
  15'-40'  
  Wettest Area

### Getting the most bang for your buck:  
**Fast Growing & Wide Spreading Plants**

There are many plants that make for successful rain gardens. The plants listed below have been selected because they can be planted at lower densities and grow quickly, resulting in a rain garden that is lush and full while using fewer plants.

#### Moisture Preference:
- **Wettest Area**  
  Moisture Preference:  
  Lowest area supports plants that can tolerate standing water.

#### Outermost Edge
- **Moisture Preference:**  
  Slightly drier than the wettest area. Supports plants that can tolerate fluctuating water levels.

### PLANT SPACING LAYOUT

**Spacing for fast growing & wide spreading plants**

- **Large Plug:** 18 inches on center
- **#1 container:** 24 inches on center
- **#3 container:** 48 inches on center

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**WETTEST AREA**

Moisture Preference:  
Lowest area supports plants that can tolerate standing water.

**OUTERMOST EDGE**

Moisture Preference:  
Highest and drier part of the rain garden and supports plants that tolerate drier conditions.