

Suggested Rain Garden Plants for Full and Partial Shade



Ironweed
Vernonia fasciculata

- Prefers average to wet soils
- Needs some sun!
- Grows to 4 feet tall
- Blooms July - September
- Bottom
- Low-maintenance
- Attracts butterflies



Culver's Root
Veronicastrum virginicum

- Prefers moist to wet soils
- Needs some sun!
- Grows to 5 feet tall
- Blooms June - August
- Bottom
- Not drought-tolerant



Blue Flag Iris
Iris virginica shrevii

- Prefers average to wet soils
- Needs some sun!
- Grows 2 - 3 feet tall
- Blooms May - July
- Bottom
- Spreads to form clumps
- Low-maintenance
- Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies



Great Blue Lobelia
Lobelia siphilitica

- Prefers average to wet soils
- Needs some sun!
- Grows to 30 inches tall
- Blooms August, September
- Bottom and front
- Loves clay soils
- Spreads by seed



Fox Sedge
Carex vulpinoidea

- Prefers average to wet soils
- Likes full sun to partial shade
- Grows to 1-3 feet tall
- Clump forming grass
- Bottom and Sides
- Gold colored seed heads May - July



Bee Balm
Monarda bradburiana

- Prefers moist to wet soils
- Likes full to full shade
- Grows to 24 inches tall
- Blooms May - June
- Bottom and Sides
- Grows in large, upright clumps
- Can be aggressive
- Attracts butterflies and bees



Lady Fern
Athyrium filix-femina

- Prefers average to moist soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows to 12 - 36 inches tall
- Sides and Bottom
- Grows in clumps
- Spreads by rhizomes



Turtlehead
Chelone glabra

- Prefers average to moist soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows to 36 inches tall
- Blooms August - October
- Bottom and Sides
- Attracts butterflies



Sun Sedge
Carex pennsylvanica

- Prefers dry to average soils
- Likes full sun to full shade
- Grows 4 - 8 inches tall
- Clump forming grass
- Front and Sides
- Spreads by rhizomes, good groundcover

Columbine
Aquilegia canadensis

- Prefers dry to moist soils
- Likes full sun to part shade
- Grows 12-36 inches tall
- Blooms April - June
- Front and Sides
- Grows in clumps
- Self-seeds (deadheading will prevent this)
- Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds



Jacob's Ladder
Polemonium reptans

- Prefers average to moist soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows to 1-2 feet tall
- Front and Sides
- Blooms April - June
- Grows in clumps
- Spreads by seeds
- Low-maintenance



Astilbe
Astilbe

- Prefers average to moist soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Many varieties and flower colors to choose from
- Grows 12 - 36 inches tall
- Blooms July-September
- Sides and Front



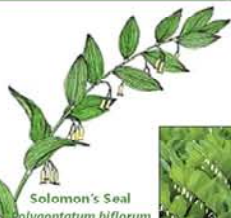
Coral Bells
Heuchera

- Prefers dry to average soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Leaves stay low, flower stalk grows taller
- Many varieties, flower and leaf colors to choose from
- Blooms April to May
- Sides and front
- Prefers sandy or loamy soils
- Grows in clumps



Wild Geranium
Geranium maculatum

- Prefers dry to average soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows 1 - 2 feet tall
- Blooms April - May
- Front and Sides
- Grows in clumps



Solomon's Seal
Polygonatum biflorum

- Prefers average to wet
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows to 36 inches tall
- Blooms April - June
- Sides and Back
- Grows in clumps



False Solomon's Seal
Smilacina stellata

- Prefers dry to average soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Grows to 24 inches tall
- Blooms April - June
- Red berries in late summer
- Sides and Back
- Grows in clumps
- Spreads by rhizomes



Hosta
Hosta

- Prefers dry to moist soils
- Likes partial to full shade
- Many varieties and leaf colors to choose from
- Blooms blue or white
- Plant anywhere in garden (see species specific)
- Grows in clumps
- Attracts hummingbirds and bees



Some plants tolerate more shade than other plants. Depending on how much sun your rain garden will be exposed to, you may want to plant some 'partial sun' plants from the sun list . . .

Photos from various websites.
Illustrations from The Back Living Reader's Field Field
Information from various sources including "The Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens"