



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

Native Plants for Rain Gardens

Locate plants within the rain garden according to their tolerance of water: the plants that are the most water-tolerant should be closest to the water entry point, then plants that can tolerate moderate moisture should be in the middle, and the most drought-tolerant should be around the perimeter or furthest from the water entry point. Below is a selection of Ohio natives that will perform well in a rain garden. Be sure to research plants and read labels to find out their sun preferences and soil moisture needs and plant accordingly.

Sun – perennials

Asters
Bergamot/bee balm
Big bluestem
Black-eyed Susans
Blazingstars
Blue false indigo
Blue flag iris
Butterfly weed
Compass plant
Coreopsis
Culver's root
False sunflower
Foxglove beardtongue
Golden Alexanders
Goldenrods
Great blue lobelia
Ironweed

Shade – perennials

Blue-stemmed goldenrod
Blue wood aster
Broad-leaved goldenrod
Cardinal flower
Crested dwarf iris
Sedges and rushes
Goat's beard
Marsh marigold
Solomon's seal
Turtlehead
Wild columbine
Wild geranium
Wood poppy
Ferns – Ostrich, Cinnamon, Lady, Christmas, Sensitive, and Goldie's

Joe-pye weed
Little bluestem
Ohio spiderwort
Phlox
Prairie dropseed
Purple coneflower
Royal catchfly
Swamp milkweed
Switchgrass
Wild quinine

Sun – shrubs & trees

Arborvitae
Black chokeberry
Ninebark
Red maple
Red twig dogwood
River birch
Serviceberry
Viburnums
Winterberry

Shade – shrubs & trees

Arborvitae
Buttonbush
Common witchhazel
Oakleaf hydrangea
Red bud
River birch
Spicebush