

Perennials for Rain Gardens

("Moist-wet" indicates perennials that tolerate standing water. * = attracts butterflies)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Minimum Hardiness Zone	Flower Color	Light Requirements	Plant Height	Season of Bloom or Showiness	Soil Preference
<i>Acorus</i> species	Sweet Flag	3	Yellow	Full sun	3-6 feet	July-August	Moist-wet
* <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Fragrant Hyssop	4	Purple	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	August-October	Moist
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Blue Stem grass	3	Bronze/Red	Full sun	3-8 feet	Seed heads form in August	Moist
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone	3	White	Sun-part shade	1-2 feet	May-June	Moist
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goat's Beard	3	White	Shade-part shade	4-6 feet	July-August	Moist
* <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Marsh Milkweed	3	Pink-red	Full sun	4-5 feet	June-July	Moist
* <i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	4	Soft purple	Full sun	4-6 feet	August-October	Moist
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	3	Yellow	Sun-part shade	1-2 feet	May	Moist-wet
* <i>Carex crinita</i>	Caterpillar Sedge	4	Green foliage	Full sun	3-5 feet	July-Sept	Moist-wet
* <i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge	4	Green foliage	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	July-Sept	Moist-wet
* <i>Chelone</i> species	Turtlehead	3	White; pink; purple	Part shade	2-5 feet	August-Sept	Moist
* <i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple Coneflower	2	Purple	Sun-part shade	3-4 feet	June-August	Moist
* <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe Pye Weed	3	Rosy purple	Sun-part shade	4-6 feet	August-Sept	Moist
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Queen of the Prairie	3	Pink	Sun-part shade	4-6 feet	June-August	Moist
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Bottle gentian	3	Blue	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	Sept-October	Moist
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	3	Yellow	Sun-part shade	2-4 feet	July-August	Moist
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower	3	Yellow	Full sun	4-5 feet	July-Sept	Moist
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris	4	Yellow	Full sun	2-3 feet	June	Moist-wet

<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris	4	Purple, blue, or white	Full sun	2-3 feet	June	Moist
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	3	Purple	Full sun	2-3 feet	June	Moist-wet
* <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazingstar	3	Lavender	Full sun	3-4 feet	July-August	Moist
<i>Ligularia</i> species	Goldenray	4	Golden yellow	Part shade	1 foot	July-Sept	Moist
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	2	Red, pink	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	July-Sept	Moist
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	4	Blue, white	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	August-Sept	Moist
<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	Plume Poppy	4	White	Full sun	Up to 3 feet	July-August	Moist
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	3	Bright green foliage	Shade	3-5 feet	May-October no flowers	Moist
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	3	Blue	Shade	1-2 feet	May	Moist
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkey Flower	3	Blue	Full sun	1-3 feet	June-July	Moist
<i>Mondarda fistulosa</i>	Bee Balm or Wild Bergamot	3	Lavender	Sun-part shade	2-3 feet	July-August	Moist
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	True Forget-me-not	3	Blue	Sun-part shade	1-2 feet	May-June	Moist
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	4	Green foliage	Shade	3-4 feet	no flowers	Moist
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	3	Green foliage	Shade	3-4 feet	May-October	Moist
<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	Interrupted Fern	3	Green foliage	Shade	2-4 feet	May-October	Moist
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	3	Lacey seedheads	Sun-part shade	3-5 feet	Showy July-Sept	Moist
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Prairie Phlox	4	Pink	Full sun	2-3 feet	June-July	Moist
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Mountain Mint	3	White	Full sun	1-3 feet	July-Sept	Moist
* <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	Black-eyed Susan	3	Gold; white	Full sun	2-3 feet	July-Sept	Moist
<i>Scirpus fluviatilis</i>	River Bulrush	4	Brown	Full sun	5-7 feet	May-Sept	Moist-wet
* <i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Riddell's Goldenrod	3	Yellow	Full sun	1-3 feet	August-Sept	Moist
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Tall Meadow Rue	4	White	Sun-part shade	3-4 feet	June-July	Moist
<i>Trollius</i> species	Globeflower	3	Yellow	Full sun	1-2 feet	May-June	Moist
<i>Viola cucullata</i>	Blue Marsh Violet	4	Purple, white	Sun-part shade	6-10 inches	May	Moist
* <i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	4	Yellow	Full sun	1-3 feet	May-June	Moist

Trees and Shrubs for Moist Sites

(* = butterfly plant)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Zone	Mature Height	Preferences
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver Maple	3,4	80 feet	Sun; slightly acid soil
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	3,4	50 feet	Sun; slightly acid soil
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Alder	4	50 feet	Sun
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	2,3, 4	1 foot	Sun, part shade; acid soil
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	3, 4	3-5 feet	Sun or shade
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	4	65 feet	Sun; slightly acid soil
* <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	4	Up to 10 feet	Sun
* <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	4	Up to 6 feet	Acid soil; shade
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	3,4	25 feet	Sun, shade
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	4	12 feet	Sun
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	3,4	Up to 10 feet	Sun or part shade
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush Honeysuckle		2 feet	Sun or shade
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>	Black Ash	3,4	80 feet	Sun
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Annabelle Hydrangea	3,4	3 feet	Sun or shade
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	3,4	Up to 10 feet	Sun; acid soil
<i>Kalmia polifolia</i>	Bog laurel	2,3,4	2 feet	Part shade; acid soil
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack or American Larch	2,3, 4	65 feet	Sun; tolerates drought
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black Spruce			
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood (cottonless variety)	2,3,4	90 feet	Sun
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Quaking Aspen	2,3,4	90 feet	Sun
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak	4	65 feet	Sun, part shade
* <i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy Willow	4	Up to 20 feet	Sun
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	Purple Osier Willow	2,3,4	9 feet	
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elder	2,3,4	9 feet	Sun, part shade
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald Cypress	4	65 feet	Sun, part shade
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Arborvitae or White Cedar	3,4	3-65 feet	Sun, part shade
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood	3,4	90 feet	Sun, part shade
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	3,4	Up to 25 feet	Sun, part shade
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American Highbush Cranberry	2,3,4	Up to 12 feet	Sun

