

What To Do With A Downpour:

Ornamental Ways To Handle Rainwater

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Summary Tables of Plants

Plants for bioretention cells (and sandy rain gardens)

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Pink summer flw followed by attractive seed-heads. Monarch food source.	
<i>Aster</i> (now <i>Symphyotrichon</i>) <i>puniceum</i>	Swamp Aster	light lavender, wetland, tall	
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River Birch	Salmon-pink bark exfoliates to reveal light inner bark. Yellow in fall.	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Numerous waxy yellow, buttercup-like spring flws; loves moist & wet soils.	
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge Grass	Tropical palm like foliage	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Clusters of globe flowers in spring, green nutlets turn brown. Good in moist.	
<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	Shell Flower	Spikes of pink, snapdragon like flowers in summer. Pollinator friendly.	
<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Bailho'	Ivory Halo Dogwood	red twigs, blue berries & delicate foliage.	
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Vigorous, purplish-red fall color, white berries & gray bark; nice all year	
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	Purple flw. in August	
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> 'Rotgold'	Red & Gold Sneezeweed	red/yellow flw. in fall, very tall	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	Red Sprite Sparkle Berry	Numerous small white flowers June-July, attractive red berries in winter.	
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris	Grassy leaves, blue flw in late spring & summer, attractive seed-pods.	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Native, lavender-blue June flw Flood/drought tolerant. Sword-like lvs	
<i>Larix laricina</i> dwarf cv.	Dwarf Tamarak	deciduous conifer w amazing gold fall colour	
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	Tubular, two-lipped flower spikes of deep blue from July to September.	
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Sweet Gale	Aromatic & deciduous. Bog plant.	
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	grey berries all winter	
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	Medium blue-green lvs. red in fall. Reddish pink flw in summer.	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Little Devil'	Little Devil Ninebark	Compact, upright, dk burgundy leaves, pinkish-white June flw	
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Yellow Gem'	Yellow Gem Cinquefoil	Bright, slightly ruffled yellow flowers all summer.	
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	Nice form, red fall color	
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Rheingold'	Eastern Arbor-vitae	yellow foliage, fluffy	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> 'Fascination'	Fascination Culver's Root	tall late pink flowers,	
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	wht. flw. red fall color, fruit	

Plants for rain gardens - clay

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

Rain Garden Plants – (remember, not all plants may be suitable for all soil types, exposures or submersion times)		
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	great fall color,
Acorus gramineus 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed	Pink summer flowers & attractive seed-heads. Monarch food source.
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	Numerous waxy yellow, spring buttercup-like flw, loves moist & wet soils.
Carex ssp	Sedge	interesting seedheads
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	Clusters of globe flws in spring, green nutlets turn brown. Good in moist.
Chelone glabra	Pink Turtlehead	Rose-pink turtlehead shaped flw; late summer/late fall.
Clematis virginiana	Virginsbower	Fragrant white flws in summer/fall. Slow growth in first 2 years, then rapid.
Coreopsis lanceolata	Lance-leaved Tickseed	Daisy-like yellow flw in summer, excellent fen-plant.
Cornus ssp	Dogwood sp	good fall color, berries & good winter interest.
Darmera peltata	Umbrella Plant	Early spring purple flws on leafless, hairy stems. Huge lvs burgundy in fall.
Eupatorium/Eutrochium ssp	Joe Pye Weed	dusty rose summer flowers; good for pollinators
Filipendula rubra	Meadowsweet	pink flws. very tall
Helenium autumnale 'Rotgold'	Red & Gold Sneezeweed	red/yellow flw. in fall, very tall
Hibiscus moscheutos 'Kopper King'	Kopper King Perennial Hibiscus	pink flw. on copper leaves
Ilex verticillata	Sparkleberry	Attractive red berries in winter. Need 1 male var./5 females
Iris versicolor	Blue Flag Iris	Native, lavender-blue June flw; Flood/drought tolerant. Sword-like lvs
Larix laricina dwarf cv.	Dwarf Tamarak	deciduous conifer w amazing gold fall colour
Lobelia siphilitica	Great Blue Lobelia	Tubular, two-lipped flw spikes of deep blue from July to September.
Oxydendron arboretum	Sourwood	white flw, stellar fall color
Panicum virgatum 'Blood Brothers'	Blood Brothers Switch Grass	Drought tolerant, blue-green foliage with blood-red tones, beige in winter.
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Little Devil'	Little Devil Ninebark	Compact, upright, rounded, deep burgundy leaves, pinkish-white June flw
Potentilla fruticosa 'Red Ace' (Dasiphora fruticosa)	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Small red flws fade to orange in intense heat, flws all summer. Fine lvs
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak	Nice form, red fall color
Taxodium distichum	Bald Cypress	deciduous, nice bark & color
Thuja ssp.	Cedars	evergreen and good for biodiversity; some are colourful
Veronicastrum virginicum 'Fascination'	Fascination Culver's Root	tall late pink flw
Viburnum ssp	Viburnum	edible berries, easily grown; good in fall

Plants for rain gardens - shade

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

<i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like	+
<i>Arisaema dracontium</i>	Dragon-root	unique flowers and leaves	+
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Bright green fronds. Upright, clumping habit.	+
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Numerous waxy yellow, spring buttercup-like flw, loves moist & wet soils.	+
<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed Sedge	interesting seedheads	+
<i>Carex elata</i> 'Bowles Golden'	Bowles Golden Sedge Grass	yellow lvs. evergreen	
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge Grass	Tropical palm-like foliage	+
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Drooping Sedge Grass	graceful weeping form	+
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Clusters of globe flws in spring, green nutlets turn brown. Good in moist.	+
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Pink Turtlehead	Rose-pink turtlehead shaped flw; late summer/late fall.	+
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virginsbower	Fragrant white flws in summer/fall. Slow growth in first 2 years, then rapid.	+
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> 'Flore Pleno'	Double-flowered Meadowsweet	white flws. yellow leaves	
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> 'Rotgold'	Red & Gold Sneezeweed	red/yellow flw. in fall, very tall	+
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	Red Sprite Sparkle Berry	Numerous small white flws June-July, attractive red berries in winter.	+
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Native, lavender-blue June flw; Flood/drought tolerant. Sword-like lvs	+
<i>Ligularia dentata</i> 'Desdemona'	Golden Groundsel	Yellow, daisy-like flws in summer, lvs emerge purple, fade to dark green.	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	Oval, green leaves, with gold fall clr; wht spring flws, crimson berries.	+
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Upright mound of green foliage, spikes of scarlet flws July to September.	+
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Marginal Shield Fern	Long, soft green fronds, wavy-toothed leaves. Vigorous groundcover.	+
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	cinnamon coloured felty lf.	+
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	Coppery coloured fronds, green summer foliage, yellow-brown in fall.	+
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush	huge leaves, white flw & GREAT fall color	+
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry	4 seasons of interest	+

Plants for rain gardens - spring

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

Rain Garden Plants – (remember, not all plants may be suitable for all soil types, exposures or submersion times)			
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	great fall color,	
Acorus gramineus 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like	
Andromeda polifolia 'Blue Ice'	Bog Rosemary	blue leaves & pink spring flw.	
Arisaema dracontium	Dragon-root	unique flowers and leaves	
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady Fern	Bright green fronds. Upright, clumping habit.	
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	Numerous waxy yellow, spring buttercup-like flw, loves moist & wet soils.	
Carex elata 'Bowles Golden'	Bowles Golden Sedge Grass	yellow lvs. evergreen	
Cornus sericea 'Winter Beauty'	Winter Beauty Dogwood	red twigs with yellow tips	
Cornus sericea 'Flaviramea'	Yellowtwig Dogwood	yellow twigs,	
Cornus sericea	Redtwig Dogwood	red twigs,	
Darmera peltata	Umbrella Plant	Early spring purple flws on leafless, hairy stems. Huge lvs burgundy in fall.	
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	Oval, green leaves, with gold fall clr; wht spring flws, crimson berries.	
Onoclea sensibilis	Marginal Shield Fern	Long, soft green fronds, wavy-toothed leaves. Vigorous groundcover.	
Osmunda cinnamomea	Cinnamon Fern	cinnamon coloured felty lf.	
Osmunda regalis	Royal Fern	Coppery coloured fronds, green summer foliage, yellow-brown in fall.	
Physocarpus opulifolius 'Little Devil'	Little Devil Ninebark	Compact, upright, rounded, deep burgundy leaves, pinkish-white June flw	
Populus tremuloides	Trembling Aspen	Narrow, rounded crown, ascending branches. Silver-wht bark, ylw fall.	
Primula - Mixed.	Primrose	early spring flw	
Primula 'Inshriach Hybrids'	Candleabra Primrose	spring flw in whorls	
Primula veris	Primrose	early spring flw	
Salix candida	Sage-leaved Willow	with grey-white leaves, striking	
Viburnum trilobum	Highbush Cranberry	4 seasons of interest	

Plants for rain gardens - summer

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

Rain Garden Plants – (remember, not all plants may be suitable for all soil types, exposures or submersion times)			
<i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like	+
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Pink summer flowers & attractive seed-heads. Monarch food source.	+
<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed Sedge	interesting seedheads	+
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Clusters of globe flws in spring, green nutlets turn brown. Good in moist.	+
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Pink Turtlehead	Rose-pink turtlehead shaped flw; late summer/late fall.	+
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved Tickseed	Daisy-like yellow flw in summer, excellent fen-plant.	+
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Vigorous, purplish-red fall color, white berries & gray bark for winter interest.	+
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	Purple flw. in August	+
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	Meadowsweet	pink flws. very tall	+
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> 'Flore Pleno'	Double-flowered Meadowsweet	white flws. yellow leaves	
<i>Helenium x</i> 'Mardi Gras'	Mardi Gras Sneezeweed	Tall & upright with daisy-like yellow and orange flw mid-summer to mid-fall.	+
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Kopper King'	Kopper King Perennial Hibiscus	pink flw. on copper leaves	+
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris	Grassy lvs; blue flws in late spring/summer, attractive seed-pods.	
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag Iris	Native, lavender-blue June flw; Flood/drought tolerant. Sword-like lvs	+
<i>Ligularia dentata</i> 'Desdemona'	Golden Groundsel	Yellow, daisy-like flws in summer, lvs emerge purple, fade to dark green.	
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	Upright mound of green foliage, spikes of scarlet flws July to September.	+
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Blue Lobelia	Tubular, two-lipped flw spikes of deep blue from July to September.	+
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkey Flower	purple flw. August	+
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Blood Brothers'	Blood Brothers Switch Grass	Drought tolerant, blue-green foliage with blood-red tones, beige in winter.	+
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Little Devil'	Little Devil Ninebark	Compact, upright, rounded, deep burgundy leaves, pinkish-white June flw	+
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Tiny Wine'	Tiny Wine Ninebark	Dark pink bud opening to soft pink flw in late spring, maroon foliage.	+
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Variegata'	Variegated Obediant Plant	mauve fall flws. nice leaves,	+
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Pink Queen' (<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>)	Shrubby Cinquefoil	pink flws all summer & fall	+
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> 'Red Ace' (<i>Dasiphora fruticosa</i>)	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Small red flws fade to orange in intense heat, flws all summer. Fine lvs	+
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Meadowsweet	Cone-shaped clusters of white summer flws Narrow, toothed, green lvs	+
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush	pink flower, yellow in fall, dry, wet or clay	+
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> 'Fascination'	Fascination Culver's Root	tall late pink flw	+

Plants for rain gardens - fall

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	great fall color,
<i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like
<i>Carex</i> ssp	Sedge	interesting seedheads/foilage
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Clusters of globe flws in spring, green nutlets turn brown. Good in moist.
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virginsbower	Fragrant white flws in summer/fall. Slow growth in first 2 years, then rapid.
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Vigorous, purplish-red fall color, white berries & gray bark for winter interest.
<i>Darmera peltata</i>	Umbrella Plant	Early spring purple flws on leafless, hairy stems. Huge lvs burgundy in fall.
<i>Eupatorium/Eutrochium</i>	Joe-Pye Weeds	dusty rose or white flw.; fluffy seed heads
<i>Helenium hoopesii</i> 'Moerheim Beauty'	Moerheim Beauty Sneezeweed	red flw. in fall, very tall
<i>Larix laricina</i> dwarf cv.	Dwarf Tamarak	deciduous conifer w amazing gold fall colour
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	grey berries all winter
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black Gum	great fall color
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	Coppery coloured fronds, green summer foliage, yellow-brown in fall.
<i>Oxydendron arboretum</i>	Sourwood	white flw, stellar fall color
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Rotstrahlbusch'	Red Ray Switch Grass	Dense, upright clump of green lvs w red tinge, dark red in late summer.
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> varieties	Ninebark varieties	Compact, upright, rounded, deep burgundy leaves, pinkish-white June flw
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Variegata'	Variegated Obediant Plant	mauve fall flws. nice leaves,
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	Trembling Aspen	Narrow, rounded crown, ascending branches. Silver-wht bark, ylw fall.
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin Oak	Nice form, red fall color
<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks'	Fireworks Goldenrod	great flower form, September
<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i>	Hobblebush	huge leaves, white flw & GREAT fall color
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	wht. flw. red fall color, fruit
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> 'Winterthur'	Winterthur Viburnum	edible berries, easily grown
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry	4 seasons of interest

Plants for rain gardens - winter

Just an overview. Other cultivars may also be suitable.

Rain Garden Plants – (remember, not all plants may be suitable for all soil types, exposures or submersion times)

<i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Minimus Aureus'	Dwarf Sweet Flag	golden evergreen grass-like	
<i>Betula</i> spp	Birch	great bark in winter	
<i>Carex grayi</i>	Morning Star Sedge	semi-evergreen clump; mace-shaped seed-pods persist in winter.	
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Drooping Sedge Grass	graceful weeping form	
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	Pink Turtlehead	Rose-pink turtlehead shaped flw; late summer/late fall.	
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virginsbower	Fragrant white flws in summer/fall. Slow growth in first 2 years, then rapid.	
<i>Cornus</i> varieties	Dogwoods	colourful twigs in winter	
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye Weed	Purple flw. in August	
<i>Helenium autumnale</i> 'Rotgold'	Red & Gold Sneezeweed	red/yellow flw. in fall, very tall	
<i>Hypoxis hirsute</i>	Yellow Star Grass	yellow flw, early summer, grass-like lf.	
<i>Ilex glabra</i> 'Shamrock'	Shamrock Inkberry	Glossy, dark-green evergreen lvs; compact & rounded. Boxwood substitute	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Red Sprite'	Red Sprite Sparkle Berry	Numerous small white flws June-July, attractive red berries in winter.	
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris	Grassy lvs; blue flws in late spring/summer, attractive seed-pods.	
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	evergreen spiky leaves	
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	grey berries all winter	
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Blood Brothers'	Blood Brothers Switch Grass	Drought tolerant, blue-green foliage with blood-red tones, beige in winter.	
<i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks'	Fireworks Goldenrod	great flower form, September	
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	Meadowsweet	Cone-shaped clusters of white summer flws Narrow, toothed, green lvs	
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Steeplebush	pink flower, yellow in fall, dry, wet or clay	
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Rheingold'	Eastern Arbor-vitae	yellow foliage, fluffy	
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> 'Fascination'	Fascination Culver's Root	tall late pink flw	
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry	4 seasons of interest	

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