

Perennials

!**Achillea millefolium*, Yarrow **D, Mc**
Aconitum camichaelii, Monkshood **Mc, Mt**
 Adiantum sp.*, Maidenhair Fern **Mt, W
Alcea officinalis, Marsh Mallow **Mt, W**
Amsonia tabernaemontana, Blue Star **Mt**
 !**Aquilegia formosa*, Red Columbine
Mc, Mt, D
 !**Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, Bearberry **D, Mc**
 !**Aruncus dioicus*, Goat's Beard **Mc, Mt**
Asclepias incarnata, Butterfly Weed **Mt, W**
 Aster sp.* **D, Mc, Mt
Astilbe cvs. **Mc, Mt**
Boltonia asteroides, False Starwort **Mt, W**
 !**Camassia* **D, Mc**
Campanula, Bellflower **D, Mc, Mt**
 (varies by species)
Canna sp. **Mc, Mt, W**
Chelone, Turtle Head **Mt, W**
 **Dicentra formosa*, Pacific Bleeding
 Heart **Mc, Mt, W**
 !**Echinacea purpurea*, Coneflower **D, Mc,**
Mt
Eupatorium perfoliata **Mt, W**
Eupatorium purpurea **Mt, W**
Filipendula sp. **Mt**
 !**Fragaria virginiana* **D, Mc**
 !**Geum*, Avens **D, Mc, Mt**
 !**Hemerocallis*, Day Lily **D, Mc, Mt, W**
Hibiscus moscheutos, Rose Mallow **Mt, W**
Hosta sp. **D, Mc, Mt** (varies)
Iris ensata, japonica, Japanese Iris **Mc, Mt,**
W
 !**Iris tenax*, Oregon Iris **D, Mc, Mt, W**
 !**Liatris spicata*, Gayfeather **Mc, Mt**
 !**Leucojum aestivum*, Summer
 Snowflake **Mc, Mt**
Ligularia sp. **Mt**
Lobelia cardinalis, siphilitica Cardinal
 Flower **Mc, Mt, W**

Lysimachia clethroides, Gooseneck
 Loosestrife **Mc, Mt**
Lysimachia nummularia, Creeping
 Jenny **Mc, Mt**
Lysimachia punctata **Mc, Mt**
Matteuccia struthiopteris, Ostrich Fern
Mc, Mt, W
 Mimulus guttatus*, Monkey Flower **Mt, W
Monarda didyma, Bee Balm **Mc, Mt**
Myosotis palustris, Forget-Me-Not **Mc, Mt**
Osmunda sp., Cinnamon Fern **Mt, W**
 !**Penstemon digitalis* **Mc, Mt**
 !**Penstemon globosus* **Mc, Mt**
 !**Penstemon* (Oregon natives) **D, Mc**
Physostegia virginiana, Obedient Plant
Mc, Mt
 !**Polystichum munitum*, Sword Fern **Mc,**
Mt
Pontederia cordata, Pickerel **W**
Primula sp., Primrose **Mc, Mt, W** (varies)
 Sagittaria latifolia*, Arrowhead **W
Salvia uliginosa, Bog Sage **Mt, W**
 !**Sisyrinchium californicum*, Yellow
 Eyed Grass **Mc, Mt, W**
 !**Sisyrinchium douglasii*, Blue Eyed
 Grass **D, Mc, Mt**
 !**Smilacina racemosa*, False Solomon's
 Seal **Mc, Mt**
Tradescantia cvs., Spiderwort **Mt**
Tricyrtis hirta, Toad Lily **Mc, Mt**
 !**Trillium ovatum*, Wake Robin **D, Mc, Mt**
Veronica longifolia, Speedwell **Mc, Mt**

KEY	
D	Dry Zone
Mc	Mesic Zone
Mt	Moist Zone
W	Wet Zone
*	NW Native
!	Drought Tolerant
Grey	Tolerates Shade

Trees and Shrubs

!**Acer circinatum*, Vine Maple **D, Mc, Mt**
 !**Acer rubrum*, Red Maple **D, Mc, Mt, W**
 Alnus rhombifolia, rubra*, Alder **Mt, W
Betula nigra, River Birch **Mt, W**
 Betula papyrifera*, Paper Birch **Mc, Mt, W
Clethra sp., Summersweet **Mc, Mt, W**
 !**Cornus sericea*, Red-Twig Dogwood **D,**
Mc, Mt, W
Fraxinus americana, White Ash **Mc, Mt, W**
Magnolia virginiana, Sweetbay **Mc, Mt, W**
 !**Mahonia sp.*, Oregon Grape **D, Mc**
 !**Malus*, Crabapple **D, Mc**
 !**Philadelphus lewisii*, Mock Orange **D,**
Mc, Mt
 !**Physocarpus capitatus*, Pacific Ninebark
D, Mc, Mt, W
 Populus tremuloides*, Aspen **Mc, Mt, W
 Rhamnus purshiana*, Cascara **Mc, Mt
 !**Ribes sanguinum*, Flowering Currant **D,**
Mc, Mt
 Rosa nutkana*, Nootka Rose **Mc, Mt
 Rosa pisocarpa*, Swamp Rose **Mt, W
 Salix sp.*, Willow **Mc, Mt, W
 Spiraea sp.* **D, Mc, Mt, W (varies)
Taxodium sp., Bald Cypress **Mt, W**
 !**Vaccinium ovatum*, Evergreen Huckleberry **D,**
Mc
Vaccinium Macrocarpon, Cranberry **Mc, Mt, W**



Grasses

Acorus sp., Sweet Flag **Mc, Mt, W**
Carex muskingumensis, Palm Sedge **Mc, Mt**
Carex nigra, Black Sedge **Mt, W**
Carex obnupta, Slough Sedge **Mt, W**
 Deschampsia cespitosa*, Hair Grass **Mc,
Mt
 Juncus sp.*, Rush **Mc, Mt, W
 !**Miscanthus sinensis*, Maiden Grass **D, Mc**

Planting and Maintenance

SITE AND SOIL PREPARATION:

Use the calculator at OSU's website (see references) to determine the size and depth of your rain garden. Amend the soil so the mix is roughly 50% native soil, 30% compost, and 20% pumice.

MULCHING: Two kinds of mulch are important in a rain garden. A mulch of pea gravel or river rocks at the point where water enters will help prevent erosion; this mulch should be thick enough that no soil shows through. The rest of the rain garden should have compost 1-3" deep added once a year as spring rains taper off in June. This will help suppress weeds and maintain moisture levels during dry periods.

WATERING: All plants (even drought tolerant ones) will need supplemental water in the first 1-2 years until they are well established.

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDES:

These should both be avoided in your rain garden whenever possible; part of the goal is to help keep these things out of local waterways. If necessary, use granular, low phosphorous, organic fertilizer, and the least toxic pesticide available. Consider replacing plants which are repeatedly susceptible.



Definitions

A *Rain Garden* is a planted depression where run-off from roofs, driveways and other surfaces is directed so that it can soak back into the soil naturally rather than run into storm drains. The soil and plants in these areas filter out some impurities before the water drains into sewers, groundwater, rivers and streams.

A *Bioswale* is a linear depression that directs the flow of water while letting it percolate into the soil.



Rain Garden Location

Choose a spot where water can be easily directed through the landscape or from downspouts. Make sure to leave at least 6 feet from your house, and allow for overflow away from foundations and other structures.

(For specific information on existing structures and Rain Gardens and Bioswales please consult the resources on the back of this brochure)

Resources

Books:

- *Rain Gardens: Managing water sustainably in the garden and designed landscape*
Nigel Dunnett and Andy Clayden – general discussion of water and waterside plants in the garden, plus a big plant list
- *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*
Jim Pojar and Andy MacKinnon – northwest native plants, not specific to rain garden or swale use
- *Tree Maintenance*
Pirone, Hartman, Sall, and Pirone – includes a valuable list of shade trees that survived a 10-day, 15" deep flood.

Websites:

- www.raingardens.org
- OSU Rain Garden Guide
www.seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs/10001.pdf
- Portland Bureau of Environmental Services – get a discount off your waste water bill when you build a rain garden.
www.portlandonline.com/bes
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Department
www.emswcd.org/raingarden



Rain Gardens and Bioswales

Introduction and Plant Suggestions



PORTLAND NURSERY
www.portlandnursery.com



Categorizing Plants

Rain garden plants must be able to tolerate periods of drought and flooding, especially in the Northwest. Few plants can tolerate all the different conditions found in a rain garden, so the following plants will be divided into 4 different categories.

Dry – The top of the rain garden where floodwaters never reach. Drainage here is good because it's at the top of a slope. Please see the [Drought Tolerant](#) handout for more plant suggestions for this area.

Mesic – This level, just below the dry zone, experiences occasional, brief winter flooding and summer drought.

Moist – The zone approaching the bottom of the rain garden experiences frequent winter flooding. The number of plants that can grow here without summer water is limited.

Wet – The bottom of the swale will be saturated for a large portion of the year; water plants can be grown here if supplemental water is given in the summer. Without summer irrigation, fewer plants can grow here.

