



sustainable outdoor living

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Key

wp	wet prairie
mp	mesic prairie
wd	woodland
ww	wet woods
s	savanna
w	wet/emergent

Rain Garden Species for Full to Part Sun

Clayey Soils

Species name	Common name	height	color	bloom	native habitat
<i>Forbs</i>					
Acorus calamus	sweet flag	1'-3'	green	may-june	w/wp
Alisma subcordatum	water plantain	1'-3'	white	may-oct	w/wp
Iris virginica shrevei	blue flag iris	1'-3'	blue/purple	june-aug	w/wp
Pontederia cordata	pickerelweed	1'-4'	purple/blue	july-aug	w
Sagittaria latifolia	broad-loaved arrowhead	2'-4'	white	july-aug	w
<i>Sedges</i>					
Carex hystricina	porcupine sedge	6-24"	yellow	may-june	w/wp
Carex vulpinoidea	fox sedge	6-12"	yellow/brown		w/wp
<i>Rushes</i>					
Scirpus acutus	hard-stemmed bulrush	2'-4'	brown	june-aug	w
Scirpus americanus	three-square bulrush	1'-3'	brown	june-aug	w/wp
Scirpus atrovirens	dark green bulrush	2'-4'	yellow/brown	june-aug	w
Scirpus fluviatilis	river bulrush	1'-4'	yellow/brown	june-aug	w
Scirpus validus	soft-stem bulrush	2'-5'	orange/brown	june-sept	w
Sparganium eurycarpum	giant bur-reed	2'-4'	green/brown	may-july	w

Silty and Sandy Soils

Species name	Common name	height	color	bloom	native habitat
<i>Forbs</i>					
Asclepias incarnata	swamp milkweed	2'-6'	pink/red	july-aug	wp/w
Aster novae-angliae	New England aster	1'-4'	purple	aug-oct	wp/mp
Aster puniceus	red-stemmed aster	1'-5'	purple/blue	aug-nov	wp/w
Aster simplex	marsh aster	1'-2'	white	aug-oct	wp/w

Boltonia asteroides	false aster	3'-5'	white	aug-oct	wd
Caltha palustris	marsh marigold	8"-24"	yellow	april-june	wp/w
Chelone glabra	turtlehead	1'-3'	white	july-sept	wp/w
Epilobium angustifolium	fireweed	3'-6'	pink/red	july-sept	wp/w
Eupatorium maculatum	Joe-pye weed	2'-6'	pink/purple	july-sept	w/wp
Eupatorium perfoliatum	boneset	2'-4'	white	july-sept	wp/mp/s
Helenium autumnale	sneezeweed	2'-4'	yellow	aug-oct	w/wp
Liatris pycnostachya	gayfeather	2'-4'	purple	july-aug	wp/mp
Lobelia cardinalis	cardinal flower	2'-4'	scarlet	july-sept	wp/mp
Lobelia siphilitica	great blue lobelia	1'-4'	blue	aug-sept	w/wp
Lythrum alatum	winged loosestrife	1'-2'	pink/purple	june-sept	wp/w
Phlox glaberrima	smooth phlox	2'-4'	pink	may-june	ww/s
Physostegia virginiana	obedient plant	1'-4'	purple	june-aug	wp/mp
Pycnanthemum virginianum	common mountain mint	1'-4'	white	july-sept	wp/mp
Rudbeckia subtomentosa	sweet coneflower	2'-4'	yellow/brown	aug-sept	wp/mp
Silphium laciniatum	compass plant	4'-8'	yellow	july-sept	dp/mp
Silphium terebinthinaceum	prairie dock	4'-8'	yellow	aug-oct	mp/dp
Solidago graminifolia	grass-leaved goldenrod	1'-4'	yellow	june-oct	wp/w/mp
Solidago Riddellii	Riddell's goldenrod	1'-3'	yellow	sept-nov	w/wp
Teucrium canadense	germander	8"-36"	pink	july-sept	wp/mp/dp
Verbena hastata	blue vervain	2'-4'	purple	july-sept	w/wp
Veronicastrum virginicum	culver's root	3'-5'	white	june-aug	mp/wp
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexander	1'-2'	yellow	april-june	wp/w

Grasses

Panicum virgatum	Switch grass	3'-4'	yellow/brown		wp/mp
Spartina pectinata	prairie cordgrass	4'-6'	yellow	aug-oct	wp/mp

Sedges

Carex comosa	bottlebrush sedge	1'-2'	yellowish green	may-july	wp/w
Carex hystericina	porcupine sedge	1'-2'	green	may-july	w/wp
Carex scoparia	common sedge	1'-4'	brown	june-aug	wp/mp
Carex vulpinoidea	fox sedge	1'-3'	brown	june-aug	wp/mp

Rushes

Eleocharis acicularis	needle spike rush	1"-12"	brown	may-june	wp
Eleocharis obtusa	spike rush	2"-8"	green	may-june	wp
Juncus torreyi	Torrey's rush	6"-24"	green	july-aug	wp

Shrubs

Species name	Common name	height	color	bloom	native habitat
<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	speckled alder	15'-20'	purple/brown	march	wet/flood plains
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	chokeberry	5'-7'	white	may-june	dry-wet, sun & part shade
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	buttonbush	3'-15'	white	may-august	marshes, streams
<i>Cornus amomum</i>	silky dogwood	5'-10'	white	june	wet woods
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	red-twig dogwood	5'-9'	white	may-june	wet/streams
<i>Hypericum kalmianum</i>	kalm St. Johnswort	3'-4'	yellow	july-august	sand-clay
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	shrubby St. Johnswort	3'-4'	yellow	june-august	garden soil
<i>Ilex verticellata</i>	winter berry / black alder	3'-15'	red (fruit)	sept-oct	wet woods/meadows
<i>Salix discolor</i>	pussy willow	8'-15'	white/yellow	april-may	wet meadows
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	elderberry	8'-10'	white	june-july	dry-wet, shade-sun
<i>Spiraea alba</i>	meadowsweet	2'-4'	white	june-august	streambanks, meadows
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	steeple bush	2'-4'	pink/purple	july-september	wp, meadows
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	American cranberrybush	10'-20'	white	april-june	ww/wd/s