<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Bloom Time</th>
<th>Bloom Color</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Sun/Shade</th>
<th>Native?</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Habitats</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Actaea rubra</em></td>
<td>Red Baneberry</td>
<td>12-36” May</td>
<td>Red - Yellow</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>MNPPA</td>
<td>2” pot</td>
<td>P, Sh, Ms</td>
<td>M, Ms</td>
<td>good for woodland setting, not especially showy, best massed for a nice texture, poisonous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Corydalis grandiiflora</em></td>
<td>Blue Cohosh</td>
<td>24” April</td>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>MNPPA</td>
<td>quart</td>
<td>Sh</td>
<td>Ms, M</td>
<td>good for woodland setting, not too terribly showy, but interesting foliage and berries for those who like diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hydrophyllum virginicum</em></td>
<td>Virginia Waterleaf</td>
<td>1-1.5” May-June</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>MNPPA</td>
<td>quart</td>
<td>Sh</td>
<td>Ms, M, W</td>
<td>not especially showy, best massed for even texture, can tolerate shade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phlox divaricata**
- **Woodland Phlox**
  - **Blue**
    - Flower: 5-1” April-June
    - Color: C
    - Size: WA gallon
    - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
    - Native?: M, Ms
    - Use: Butterfly
    - Comments: tall, similar to *Oxalis*, but holds up better in the late summer

**Solidago flexicaulis**
- **Zig Zag Goldenrod**
  - Yellow
  - Flower: 2-3” August-October
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: D, M, Ms, W
  - Native?: C
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: great for woodland setting, fills in the shade, delicate late season color for shade

**Solidago rigida**
- **Wood Poppy**
  - Pink
  - Flower: 1-2” April-June
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: good for spring in woodland setting, can be aggressive

**Thalictrum dioicum**
- **Ostrich Fern**
  - Pink
  - Flower: 24-36” n/a
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: D, M, Ms
  - Native?: Y
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: doesn’t like to dry out, can be aggressive if happy, good for clay

**Anthemis tinctoria**
- **Lady Fern**
  - 24-36” n/a
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: beautiful fern

**Echinacea purpurea**
- **Snowcone Cone Flower**
  - White
  - Flower: 2.5-3” June-August
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: good for clay, more compact and full than straight species, good butterfly plant

**Eupatorium maculatum**
- **Liatris spicata**
  - White
  - Flower: 2.5-4” June-August
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: shorter version of flowering stalks

**Pennisetum digitalis**
- **White Beardtongue**
  - White
  - Flower: 3-4” June
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: fills the void of blooming native plants in June, good for clay, but can look a little leggy-needs a facer

**Potentilla simplex**
- **Common cinquefoil**
  - Yellow
  - Flower: 6-12” May-June
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: good plant for late season color, can be aggressive (use with someone who is not much of a weeder and doesn’t like space between plants)

**Rudbeckia hirta**
- **Black-eyed Susan**
  - Yellow
  - Flower: 1-3” July-Oct
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: short-lived, but aggressively self sows, not especially neat, and can look tired when it is done–best used with native lover, good for clay

**Nyssa sylvatica**
- **Elderberry**
  - White
  - Flower: 5-10” June-July
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: nice smaller alternative to straight native *Viburnum dentatum*, neat and round, beautiful blue berries

**Viburnum lentago**
- **Goldenring Arrowwood**
  - Yellow
  - Flower: 1-3” July-Oct
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
  - Comments: clay long-blooming, but people either like it or hate it, can spread fast, but it's happy for good clay

**Rubus ulmifolius**
- **Black-haw**
  - Yellow
  - Flower: 1-3” July-Oct
  - Size: WA gallon
  - Sun/Shade: Sn, P
  - Native?: M, Ms
  - Use: Butterfly
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Acid-chlorophyllans **October Skies**
October Skies Aster
Lt Blue/Lavender 4-5  Sept-Oct 18" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, W  Beautiful larval plant for butterflies
Butterfly on plant

Baptisia aestivalis
Baptisia or False Indigo
Blue 3-4" June 7" o.c.  N WA 1 pot Sn, P, M, M, W  Clay good dramatic accent, really needs full sun, almost looks like a shrub, good for clay

Euryngium yuccifolium
Rattlesnake Master
White/LT Green 3" July-Sep 18" N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, W  dramatic form, not for the faint of heart

Agave attenuata rosea
Rose Malva
f/s 4-8  June 18" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M  huge pink flowers, shrub-like

Paniceum virginicum
Switch Grass
f/s 4-6" Aug-Sept 7" o.c.  Y N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  taller grass, beautifully highlighted with fawn tinged foliage, takes a while to look like something in the spring, best with low-groundcover (fragaria virginiana, potentilla virginica)

Paniceum virginicum 'Cloud Nine'
Cloud Nine Switch Grass
f/s 4-7" Aug-Sept 2-3" C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, M  tall, neat and dramatic – this is a great plant, takes a while to look like something in the spring, best with low-groundcover (fragaria virginiana, potentilla virginica)

Rudbeckia pilosa
Yellow Coneflower
Yellow 4-6" July-Oct 10" o.c.  N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  tall, use with someone into the native look

Silphium latifolium
Compass Plant
Yellow 2-3" Aug, July 10" o.c.  N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  clay, use with someone into the native look, can spread aggressively if happy, good for clay

Silphium terebinthinaceum
Prairie Dock
Yellow 8' (flower) 10" Nov. 18" o.c.  N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  short broad foliage is great contrast plant, flower stalk is airy and tall (sometimes needs staking), good for clay

Solidago rostrata
Riddick's Goldenrod
Yellow 2'-6' 10" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  nice good-looking foliage, looks like a garden plant. Pretty yellow flowers the same time as Asars and Borbas.

Sporobolus heterolepis
Prairie Dropseed
Purple 2'-6" Aug, July 10" o.c.  N MNPPA 2 pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  a great performer, but takes a while to get going, beautiful fall texture, great for front edge of sunny garden, since it has neat winter presence, but can be quite a mess in the summer

Veronica hastata
Blue Veronica
Purple 4-6" June-August 12" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  nice low, nice color, best for native setting

**SHRUBS**

Ilex verticillata
Winterberry
White 4-6" June-July 3.5" o.c.  N MNPPA 1 gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  Acidic needs acid soil (not clay!), makes it possible for companion female plant below to bloom and fruit

Ilex verticillata 'Jim Dandy'
Winterberry-Male
White 4-6" June-July 3.5" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  Acidic needs acid soil (not clay!), amazing winter berries (needs male above--1 male for every 5 females)

Potentilla fruticosa 'Vigilante'
Goldfinch Potentilla
Yellow 3'-4" June-July 30" o.c.  C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  Acidic needs acid soil (not clay!), beautiful branching habit, nice for shrub border, good for clay

**PLANTS TO TRY** These plants are untested in rain gardens - but seem like they might work. Would you plant one or two of these species, and then report back to us on how they turned out? Thanks!

Osmunda cinnamomea
White Snakeroot
White 2'-4' Jul-Sep 24" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot P, Sh M, M, W  Nice white flowers in shade, I hear it is a spreader. There is a cultivar 'Chocolate'. How does it do in a rain garden?

Eupatorium rugosum
Golden ragwort
Yellow 2'-3' spring 12" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot P, Sh M, M, W  A beautiful, well-kept looking little plant with big dark leaves, similar to hostas

Marsh Marigold
Yellow 1'-1.5' Apr-Jun 12" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot P, Sh M, M, W  Beautiful yellow flowers. Nice along pond edges. How does it do in a rain garden?

Coreopsis tripteris
Spiderwort - Sweet Kate
Purple 1' June 12" o.c.  ? C WA gallon Sn, P, M, M, W  Cultivar of spiderwort, very short, yellow chartreuse leaves in full sun. Cut back when the leaves go dormant.

Lilium michiganense
Wild Senna
Yellow 3'-5' Jul-Aug 18" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  Butterfly in the pea family, so yellow pea-like flowers

Pycnanthemum virginianum
Mountain-Mint
White 2'-4' Jul-Sep 18" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot Sn, P, M, M, M, W  We are pretty sure this works in rain gardens. Is it pretty enough to be a garden plant?

Swamp Buttercup

Scirpus atrovirens
Black Bullrush
Brown 3'-5' Jun-Jul 18" o.c.  ? N MNPPA 2" pot Sn, M, M, M, M, W  Probably great for rain gardens - is it pretty enough to be a garden plant?

Cephalanthus occidentalis
SHRUBS

Buttonbush

Hypericum kalmianum
Kalm's St. John's Wort
Yellow 1'-2' Jun-Aug 2' o.c.  ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P, M, M, W  A nice little spreading shrub. How does it do in a rain garden?

Ribes americanum
Wild Black Currant
White 2'-4' Apr-May 5' o.c.  ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P, M, M, M, W  A small shrub; lacks prickles; edible berries can be used to make jelly, wine, or pie.
**TREES TO TRY**

**Asimina triloba**
*Paw Paw Purple* 15'-30' Apr-May ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P, Sh M, Ms, W

Huge leaves, produces yummy banana-flavored fruit after a decade or so. Beautiful tree - will it work in a rain garden?

**Betula alleghaniensis**
*Yellow Birch* Yellow 40'-70' Apr-May ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Beautiful tree, not often planted.

**Betula pumila**
*Bog Birch* Brown 5'-12' May-Jun ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Shrubby birch.

**Carpinus caroliniana**
*Musclewood* Green 15'-30' Apr-May ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P, Sh M, Ms, W

Beautiful small tree, "muscle" bark. Lives in floodplains, how about a rain garden?

**Carya cordiformis**
*Bitternut Hickory* Yellow 50'-85' May-Jun ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P M, Ms, W

Slow growing tree, yellow fall color.

**Gymnocladus dioicus**
*Kentucky Coffee Tree* White 60'-85' Jun ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P M, Ms, W

Pre-historic looking tree. Bulletproof in street-side locations. Seeds used by native americans as marbles.

**Larix laricina**
*Tamarack* na 40'-75' na ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P Ms, W

Yellow fall color, deciduous conifer. How does it do in a rain garden?

**Liriodendron tulipifera**
*Tulip Poplar* White 60'-110' Apr-May ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P Ms, W

Beautiful tree, not often planted.

**Platanus occidentalis**
*Sycamore* na 40'-75' na ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P Ms, W

Huge tree, bark comes off in strips, leaving a white trunk.

**Quercus bicolor**
*Swamp White Oak* Green 50'-80' May-Jun ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Big oak tree.

**Quercus macrocarpa**
*Bur Oak* Green 40'-70' May-Jun ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Big oak tree, cool shaped leaves.

**Quercus muehlenbergii**
*Chinquapin Oak* Green 50'-80' May-Jun ? N MNPPA 5-gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Big oak tree.

**Staphylea trifolia**
*American Bladdernut* White 8'-18' Apr-May ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P, M, Ms, W

Beautiful shrub/small tree with lantern seed pods in the fall. Grows on riverbanks, but how does it do in a rain garden?

**Thuja occidentalis**
*Northern White Cedar* 30'-50' ? N MNPPA gallon Sn, P Ms, W

Evergreen tree! How does it do in a rain garden?

**Plants that we have had issues with in the past**

This list is here to discuss the problems and issues with plants that, on the whole, did not work very well within the context of Washtenaw County residential rain gardens

**Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Comments**
---|---|---
*Aesclepias syriaca* | Common Milkweed | Quite aggressive, but good for monarch habitat
*Andropogon gerardii* | Big Bluestem | Some people who are truly into natives like it, but generally it is too tall and to spindly for most, is use it--mass it in a big area
*Carpinus caroliniana* | Tall Bellflower | Too spindly for most
*Chelone glabra* | Urn Root | Not showy at all, but if massed is OK for texture
*Euaptirum perfoliatum* | Boneset | Can be quite aggressive--use with caution, good for drawing beneficial (predatory) insects
*Heuchera americana* | Alum Root | Not showy at all, but if massed is OK for texture
*Mecanopsis alpina* | Bee-balm | Gets an ugly fungus on it after it blooms
*Ratibida pinnata* | Yellow Coneflower | Very tall, if used needs to be in a big space, good for drawing beneficial (predatory) NPN
*Sisyrinchium angustifoium* | Blue-eyed grass | A little sensitive--can get 'mowed' down by other plants in its area
*Smilacena racemosa* | Solomon’s Seal | Would have like to have used it, but had lots of problems with propagation
*Solidago caesia* | Goldenrod | Super aggressive–beware
*Tradescantia ohiensis* | Spiderwort | Looks nice when it blooms (only in the daytime), but then totally flattens to the ground when it is done blooming in June
*Vernonia missurica* | Ironweed | Very tall and thin, it used needs to be in a big space
*Zizia aurea* | Golden Alexanders | Clients found it too floppy and messy, but good for drawing beneficial (predatory) insects
*Helianthus grosseserratus* | Sawtooth Sunflower | Very tall, nice late season color, can be aggressive. Not available.

**Washtenaw County Rain Garden Program**

www.ewashtenaw.org/raingardens

**Master Rain Gardener training**

Master Rain Gardeners are volunteers who have earned their Master Rain Gardener certificate - trained in designing and installing rain gardens. They volunteer to help out friends and neighbors to learn about, design and plant rain gardens. Recognize them by their t-shirts and name tags! Classes held every Feb/March in person, every July online.

**Rain Garden Design Assistance**

The Office of the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner and staff work with several homeowners each year to design and install rain gardens on their property. The result is residents all over the county are happy with their new gardens, while the Huron River receives less fertilizers, chemicals and other harmful runoff.

**Rain Garden Coordinator Susan Bryan 734-222-3814**

**PLANTS I WILL TRY OUT IN MY GARDEN:**