

Rain Garden planting guide

Not only do rain gardens help to manage rainwater runoff from hard surfaces during heavy rain, but they also offer the opportunity to enhance the attractiveness of the local area and provide access to green space.

To ensure they perform both of these jobs successfully, it's important to consider the type of planting used carefully at the outset to ensure it continues to thrive in its surroundings, is relatively low maintenance, will have longevity through the seasons and be accommodating to local wild life.

Meeting these aims will also help ensure engagement with the local community who, depending on maintenance arrangements, may be responsible for looking after the gardens.

Our planting guide provides recommendations on the types of greenery that should be used in this SuDS intervention, with particular consideration given to the location of the rain garden in terms of shade or sunlight. Here is a guide with some recommendations.



Suggested plants for sunlit rain gardens

Shrubs: Cornus Alba, Euphorbia Characias wulfenii, Fatsia Japonica, Hebe Great Orme, Perovskia 'Blue Spire'

Perennials: Knautia macedonica, Kniphofia uvaria, Phlomis russeliana, Scabiosa atropurpurea, Sedum spectabile, Verbena bonariensis

Grasses: Helictotrichon sempervirens, Stipa tenuissima

Annuals/biennials: Digitalis purpurea, Papaver cambricum

Bulbs: Allium cristophii, Crocus vernus, Eremurus stenophyllus, Lilium 'Gran Paradiso', Narcissus Ice Follies



Sunlit rain gardens



January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
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Suggested plants for shaded rain gardens

Shrubs / subshrub layer: Escallonia 'Apple Blossom', Exochorda x macrantha, Hypericum 'Hidcote', Mahonia x media, Viburnum davidii

Perennials: Alchemilla mollis, Aquilegia vulgaris 'William Guinness', Bergenia cordifolia, Corydalis cuurviflora 'Bule Heron', Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve', lamium galeobdolon 'Herman Pride', Leucanthemum x superbum

Grasses: Deschampsia cespitosa

Bulbs: Allium stipitatum 'Violet Beauty', Galanthus nivalis

